



Western Governors University

California BSRN Admissions and Policy Guide

Special Requirements for WGU's B.S. Nursing (Prelicensure) California

NOTE: Because there are limited clinical opportunities available in select hospitals in Southern California, this is a highly selective and competitive program. Clinicals will take place throughout Los Angeles and the Orange County area.

To be considered for enrollment into the Prelicensure Nursing Program students must meet the following requirements:

- Take and pass the ATI TEAS Exam with a minimum total score of 60% and a reading subtest score of at least 60.
- Submit a professional resume.
- Submit a letter of intent.
- Submit at least one letter of recommendation from current healthcare employer.
- Submit official transcripts from any previous institutions that show completion of required prerequisites.

For progression into the nursing program, students must satisfactorily pass all scheduled courses in the pre-nursing program and meet all other requirements. This includes providing the following support documentation approximately 60 days after enrollment:

- Proof of health insurance.
- Proof of successfully passing a criminal background check.*
- Proof of successfully passing a urine drug test.*
- Proof of current immunization record and current negative TB test.*

- Proof of meeting the specific physical requirements in accordance with the core performance standards of the nursing profession. [Click here to see examples of physical requirements.](#)
- Participation in an interview with an admissions committee comprised of two or three committee members including the State Director of Nursing or designee.

*Note: Starred items are required to be completed *no sooner than 90 days prior* to beginning the clinical portion of this program.

LVN Advanced Placement for California Students

California licensed vocational nurses are eligible to participate in the 30-Unit Option Track, and persons who desire to complete this track must complete a total of 30 competency units in Science and Nursing courses. As stated in the BRN regulation under 1429(a), vocational nurses seeking RN licensure must additionally provide to the Board evidence of courses in Physiology and Microbiology comparable to such courses required for licensure as a registered nurse.

Students expressing interest in the 30-unit option are required to meet with WGU's California Director of Nursing. The California Director, as a minimum, will objectively discuss the requirements for licensure, analyze previous courses that students have completed, and counsel the students on their options for meeting eligibility requirements for becoming a registered nurse. Individuals completing the 30-unit Option Track are eligible to take the NCLEX-RN licensing exam but are not considered graduates of WGU's Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program. The 30-Unit Option is a non-degree option

and no degree is awarded by the University; however the 30 units completed will be provided to the student on an official University transcript. RN licensure obtained through this option may not be recognized by other State Boards of Nursing.

Challenge Credit for California Students

The University's model of education is built on the demonstration of competencies through rigorously developed methods of assessments. Students can petition to take these assessments as a challenge exam for advanced placement at the time they matriculate into the nursing program.

The LVN advance placement option allows the use of challenge examinations. The challenge exams provide applicants with credit for previous education and the opportunity to obtain credit for other acquired knowledge. Once the applicant is accepted into a cohort term the student can request advanced placement. The generic BSN program uses assessments from the third party vendor ATI for all nursing content areas.

Transfer students may challenge these assessments upon admission if they have previously completed courses from an accredited college or university where a grade of C or better was awarded. Once the assessment is passed, the student will be awarded credit by exam for the respective nursing content associated with the assessment. All nursing courses may be challenged.

Military

During military veterans' transcript reviews, military service records and credits-by-exam will be considered when determining the quantity and quality of applicable competencies in concert with federal, state and local laws; affiliate accrediting body standards; and respective state boards of nursing rules and regulations, such that the maximum competency units (per WGU's transfer policy) may be granted to pre-licensure nursing students. Credit will be limited to didactic course work and will not be extended to credit for clinical experiences.

The following information is provided to assist military veterans with healthcare experience in obtaining advance placement into the Pre-licensure Bachelor of Science Nursing program.

To be considered for advanced placement, a request for advanced placement related to military healthcare experience must be completed within two years following discharge as evidenced by Form DD-214. Program prerequisites must be completed and ATI TEAS Exam must be passed. An individual appointment with the Program Director or designee is required.

For veterans with military healthcare experience and a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN):

- Transcripts and experience will be reviewed by WGU personnel.
- Credit may be given for previous coursework per WGU's admissions policy. Such exchange will be limited to general education courses.
- Demonstration of competencies must be met via the university's challenge exam process. The college has established the maximum number of competency units that may be challenged.
- The program (WGU) will determine the course(s) the veteran or corpsman must complete based on the criterion established by the college.
- Admissions to the program is on a space available basis and is not guaranteed.
- All general education and requirements must be completed prior to admission into the BSN program.

For veterans with military healthcare experience and not licensed (not an LVN):

- Transcripts and experience will be reviewed by WGU personnel.
- Challenge exams of each course may be requested by the student to demonstrate competency. A course overview will be given prior to the exam. The college has established the maximum number of competency units that may be challenged.

- No challenges will be permitted for experiential learning units (clinical experiences).
- Successful completion of the theory test will be followed by a dosage calculation competency examination.
- Upon successful completion of the tests, a skills assessment of all skills required in first term will be given.

When all criteria have been met, the student will be eligible to progress into the program.

Clinical Hours

Each of the clinical courses in the program has co-requisites that include clinical learning lab, clinical intensive, or both. Clinical Learning also consists of clinical hours in which the student works with a clinical coach, following the coach's exact schedule as determined by the university scheduling and matching department (coaches are not allowed to set schedules with students). The shifts must be completed as scheduled within the designated clinical window. Demonstrated competency in the key clinical behaviors and related clinical course requirements are required to pass the clinical portion of the course.

Caring Arts and Science Across the Lifespan I (known as CASAL I; 6 competency units combined) is a set of two co-requisite courses, meaning students must pass both consecutive order to obtain the 6 competency units and progress to subsequent courses. *Caring Arts and Science Across the Lifespan I* (4 competency units) requires completion of an ATI exam with a score at Level 2 proficiency to successfully complete this course. *Caring Arts and Science Across the Lifespan I Clinical Learning* (2 competency units) requires successfully passing a performance-based skills assessment in the clinical learning lab at a physical location to which students will be assigned. Passing this assessment is required to progress to the clinical portion of CASAL I.

Physical Assessment (4 competency units) provides cognitive knowledge on the content and process for conducting physical exams and health

interviews. Knowledge is assessed with an objective exam from the National League for Nursing (NLN).

Caring Arts and Science Across the Lifespan II (known as CASAL II; 6 competency units combined) is a set of two co-requisite courses, meaning students must pass both consecutive order to obtain the 6 competency units and progress to subsequent courses. *Caring Arts and Science Across the Lifespan II* (4 competency units) builds on concepts presented in CASAL I and is assessed with an objective exam from the National League for Nursing (NLN). Mentor recommendation and being current in the course are required in order to progress to the clinical intensive. *Caring Arts and Science Across the Lifespan II Clinical Learning* (2 competency units) consists of clinical learning lab days at a physical location to which students will be assigned, designed to teach and evaluate nursing skills and simulated nursing care prior to attending clinical intensive.

Care of Adults with Complex Illnesses (6 competency units combined) is a set of two co-requisite courses, meaning students must pass both courses in consecutive order to obtain the 6 competency units. *Care of Adults with Complex Illnesses* (3 competency units) is the didactic portion that explores the nursing care of patients with chronic care diseases such as diabetes. The course culminates with an ATI objective, standardized examination that must be passed at a proficiency level of 2. *Care of Adults with Complex Illnesses* also has required assignments that must be completed on time in order to be allowed to progress to the clinical learning lab. *Clinical Learning for Complex Illnesses in Adults* (2 competency units) consists of scheduled lab days designed to teach how to apply nursing knowledge through simulated patient care in the clinical learning lab at a physical location to which students will be assigned, followed by an assessment conducted through simulation on the final day.

Critical Care Nursing (6 competency units combined) is a set of two co-requisite courses, meaning students must pass both courses in consecutive order to obtain the 6 competency units.

Critical Care Nursing (4 competency units) is the didactic portion of the critical care course which explores the nursing care of patients who are critically ill and require intensive nursing and medical care. The course culminates in an objective exam.

Critical Care Clinical Learning (2 competency units) consists of scheduled days of simulation learning in a physical lab setting focusing on how to apply nursing knowledge through simulated patient care in the clinical learning lab at a physical location to which students will be assigned, followed by a performance simulation assessment. Students must pass this assessment in order to progress to clinical.

Professional Nursing Role Transition (3 competency units) provides an NCLEX-RN assessment, intensive NCLEX-RN review, and study plan development to prepare for the national licensing exam. Nursing is a practice discipline that includes direct and indirect care activities that affect health outcomes. As a baccalaureate nursing student, students are developing new competencies in leadership, and in order to achieve mastery, must apply those competencies to live practice experiences and situations. This course includes the Leadership Learning Experience (LLE) which is an application of students' academic learning to a project in the work environment. The LLE is designed to help students apply and document their experience as a bachelors-prepared nurse. This course guides the student in preparing a professional portfolio suitable for use with applications to future employers or graduate schools.

Nursing Clinical Practicum (4 competency units) is an intensive clinical practicum that requires students to work full time with a preceptor (minimum of 180 clinical hours). This intensive clinical is taken concurrently with the Role Transitions course to provide students with the optimal synthesis experience to assist them with NCLEX preparation. Coursework and clinicals during the fourth term are extremely intense, and if at all possible, students are encouraged NOT to work during the Role Transitions and Nursing Clinical Practicum portion of this term (last 3 months) and to reduce their work hours during the entire term. If students are employed full-time, they should consider taking vacation time or a leave of absence

(LOA) during the Role Transitions Course and the Nursing Clinical Practicum. The Role Transitions Course requires 25-30 hours of study per week, as well as two (2) NCLEX review webinars each week for 12 weeks. The final Nursing Clinical Practicum requires completion of 180 clinical hours during a five-week period. This practicum focuses on preparing students to transition to the role of professional nursing and eventually assuming a full workload under the guidance of a preceptor.