Many Western students enter nursing programs by transferring to a nursing program or by entering a nursing program after graduation. Registered Nurse (R.N.) credentials are obtained after successfully completing a state board examination following completion of a certified nursing program at a community college (Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN), also known as a Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)), a four-year university (BSN) or a direct-entry Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) program. (A “direct entry masters” is a master’s degree that accepts students who have a bachelor’s degree, but do not have a RN credential. Some MSN programs, such as Univ. of Washington’s, are only for students who already are RNs). To be eligible for a nursing education program, students must complete a specified set of prerequisites and obtain volunteer or paid health care experience. Students may work on completing the prerequisites at WWU and apply for entry into an ASN or BSN program, with or without completing a degree at WWU. Completion of a degree is required for a direct-entry MSN program. By 2020, nursing career requirements are predicted to require a BSN degree for many, or most positions. Currently there are not sufficient BSN programs to accommodate all of the people desiring nursing education. Accordingly, at this time, if you are unable to complete a BSN degree, it would be best to follow the recommendations below for becoming a nurse, and be aware that at some point in the future additional coursework to complete a BSN degree may be something that you will consider. A useful website for looking at and comparing RN programs (two year, four year and graduate levels) is: http://www.bestnursingdegree.com/. This website is endorsed by the American Nurses Association and American Hospital Association. You can look at the college's accreditation status, and NCLEX pass rate (for schools that report that data), which is the licensure exam score pass rate. Information on nursing education programs can also be obtained from accreditation agencies: the National League For Nursing Accrediting Commission www.nlnac.org/Forms/directory_search.htm, and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, www.aacn.nche.edu/CCNE/reports/accprog.asp,

Pre-Nursing is not a major at WWU.

Western offers a RN-BSN program beginning fall 2013 through the Woodring College of Education. This program is only applicable to people who already have a RN credential, who wish to obtain a bachelor’s degree. For information, please go to: http://www.acadweb.wwu.edu/eesp/template/bsn/bsn.shtml .

Program checkpoints for preparing for a Community College RN Nursing Program1:

Freshman/Sophomore Years:
• Meet with a Pre-Nursing advisor to complete a plan of study.
• Complete:
  ➢ MATH 114 or equivalent intermediate algebra Math Placement Test score (see GUR note2) (required as pre-requisite for Chem 121.)

---

1 These course requirements were prepared from the Skagit Valley College and Whatcom Community College RN Nursing Programs. Requirements for other community college nursing programs will vary.
2 Math 107 or 112 contributes towards fulfilling the QSR GUR requirements. Math 114 fulfills QSR GUR requirement.
Please contact your major department advisor for major and graduation requirement advising.

Updated: Jan, 2015
PRE-NURSING ADVISING

- BIOL 101 (or BIOL 204, 205) (See GUR note\(^{11}\)) (pre-requisite for Biol 245 & 348).
- PSY 101 (see GUR note\(^{12}\)), PSY 230 Lifespan Developmental Psych.
  - Microbiology (BIOL 245 or BIOL 345+346)
  - Nutrition (HLED 350)
  - GURs.

Junior Year:

- Work on completing:
  - Anatomy (BIOL 348) see warning below\(^{14}\).
  - Physiology (BIOL 349)
  - Other nursing prerequisites\(^{15}\).
  - Clinical experience hours\(^{16}\). See your pre-nursing advisor for assistance setting up clinical experience hours.
  - Major requirements.

Senior Year:

- Request letters of recommendation from professors, administrators and professionals.
- Complete remaining nursing prerequisites.
- Complete major requirements.
- Two quarters before graduation, meet with major faculty advisor for major evaluation and apply for graduation.

Program checkpoints for preparing for a direct entry MSN Program:\(^{17}\)

Freshman/Sophomore Years:

- Meet with Pre-Nursing advisor to complete a plan of study.
- Complete:
  - MATH 114 or equivalent intermediate algebra Math Placement Test score (see GUR note\(^{18}\)) (pre-requisite for Chem 121)
  - Chem 121 (see GUR note\(^{19}\)).

\(^{11}\) Completion of Chemistry 121 & 122 contributes to fulfilling the Natural Sciences GUR requirement.

\(^{12}\) BIOL 101, 204, 205 contribute towards fulfilling the Natural Sciences GUR requirement.

\(^{13}\) Completion of Chemistry 121 & 122 contributes to fulfilling the Natural Sciences GUR requirement.

\(^{14}\) Only PEHR and Biology/Anthropology majors are allowed to register for Biol 348 at WWU. Students in other majors requiring Biol 348 for professional school may be granted an override if they request one from the instructor at least three weeks prior to phase I of registration.

\(^{15}\) You must examine the requirements of nursing schools you wish to qualify to apply to, and ensure you complete their requirements by discussing these requirements with your advisor so they can be included in your plan of study.

\(^{16}\) Direct patient care can be obtained by being a certified nurse assistant (CNA, also called NAC, Nursing assistant-certified). Check the schools you are interested in applying to for their acceptable clinical experience (i.e. direct patient care versus observation and job shadow), and hour requirement. For many students at Western, the best way to gain direct patient care experience is to work as a CNA. To become a CNA, take a training course at a community or technical college (See: [https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/adsaapps/Professional/nat/search.aspx](https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/adsaapps/Professional/nat/search.aspx)), then pass a state exam. Following this, work can commonly be obtained at elderly care facilities. FOR EXAMPLE: UW requires a minimum 100 hours volunteer or paid health care experience (hands-on) in one setting working around RNs, over the course of three months, completed within twelve months preceding submission of application (many applicants have over 1000 hours). Nursing Assistant Certified (NAC) is helpful, but alone it does not constitute quality health care experience. Hands-on + contact with nurses + contact with other health care providers.

\(^{17}\) These course requirements were prepared from the Seattle University College of Nursing MSN Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) Immersion Program. This program is an accelerated path to the MSN for non-nurses holding undergraduate degrees in other fields. The APN Immersion prepares graduates to be primary care nurse practitioners. Requirements for other direct entry MSN nursing programs will vary.

\(^{18}\) Math 114 fulfills QSR GUR requirement.

Please contact your major department advisor for major and graduation requirement advising.

*Updated: Jan, 2015*
Please contact your major department advisor for major and graduation requirement advising.

Updated: Jan, 2015

PRE-NURSING ADVISING

- PSY 101 (see GUR note\(^{20}\)), PSY 230 Lifespan Developmental Psych.
- BIOL 101 (or BIOL 204, 205) (See GUR note\(^{21}\)) (pre-requisite for Biol 245 & 348).
- Statistics (MATH 240, KIN 307, or BIOL 340).
- Microbiology (BIOL 245 or BIOL 345+346)
- GURs.

Junior Year:
- Work on completing:
  - Anatomy (BIOL 348) see warning below\(^{22}\).
  - Physiology (BIOL 349)
  - Other Nursing prerequisites\(^{23}\).
  - Clinical experience hours\(^{24}\). See your pre-nursing advisor for assistance setting up clinical experience hours.
  - Major requirements.
- Prepare for the Graduate Records Examination (GRE).

Senior Year:
- Request letters of recommendation from professors, administrators and professionals.
- Complete remaining nursing prerequisites.
- Complete major requirements.
- Two quarters before graduation, meet with major faculty advisor for major evaluation and apply for graduation.
- Take the GRE in the fall.

\(^{19}\) Completion of Chemistry 121 contributes to fulfilling the Natural Sciences GUR requirement.

\(^{20}\) PSY 101 contributes to fulfillment of SSC GUR requirement.

\(^{21}\) BIOL 101, 204, 205 contribute towards fulfilling the Natural Sciences GUR requirement.

\(^{22}\) Only PEHR and Biology/Anthropology majors are allowed to register for Biol 348 at WWU. Students in other majors requiring Biol 348 for professional school may be granted an override if they request one from the instructor at least three weeks prior to phase I of registration.

\(^{23}\) You must examine the requirements of nursing schools you wish to qualify to apply to, and ensure you complete their requirements by discussing these requirements with your advisor so they can be included in your plan of study.

\(^{24}\) Direct patient care can be obtained by being a certified nurse assistant (CNA, also called NAC, Nursing assistant-certified). Check the schools you are interested in applying to for their acceptable clinical experience (i.e. direct patient care versus observation and job shadow), and hour requirement. For many students at Western, the best way to gain direct patient care experience is to work as a CNA. To become a CNA, take a training course at a community or technical college (See: https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/adsaapps/Professional/nat/search.aspx), then pass a state exam. Following this, work can commonly be obtained at elderly care facilities.