

Nursing Associate Degree Program Supplemental Information

- **Course Sequence and Delivery:** The Nursing Associate Degree program at Western Technical College is two academic years (four terms). The Black River Falls starts each spring term and is also 2 academic years (four terms). All General Studies and Science courses need to be completed with a “C” or better. Completing these courses before starting the Core Nursing program will give you priority admission status. Nursing theory courses are offered face-to-face, online, and/or blended/distance learning. Nursing classes are reserved for accepted Nursing students only. Students will be required to attend a mandatory orientation meeting before they can register for any Nursing classes.
- **Reliable Transportation:** You will need your own reliable transportation to complete the requirements of the program. **Distant travel** will be required for all or part of your assignments.
- **Clinical Expectations:** All Nursing students will travel to regional healthcare facilities for their clinical experiences. Some regional clinical sites may charge students an additional fee to attend a clinical at their facility. Currently, some organizations are charging a \$10 fee directly to students for online training. These fees may vary from site to site and may be added or increased at any point in time. The College has no control over the fees charged by our educational partners.
- **Clinical Schedule:** Clinical experience will begin in the first term. Clinical schedules vary from course to course. All students are required to participate in orientation to the clinical agency. During the final weeks of the program, the student will have a “transition” experience in a hospital or long-term care agency that models the “staff nurse” role. Clinicals can be weekends and all shifts.
- **Reliable Child Care:** Timely attendance for clinical courses are expected, so please plan alternate forms of child care.
- **Western Student Email Responsibilities:** Check your student email frequently for updates, announcements and alerts from Viewpoint Screening regarding your immunizations and CPR.
- **Expenses in Addition to Textbooks:**
 - Viewpoint Screening purchase (Background Check and Health Portal Immunization Tracker packages)
 - Evolve/HESI case studies, exams, EAQs, simulation 2.0 for the RN
 - Uniform
 - Personal computer
 - Clinical fees for regional sites
 - Personal expenses such as childcare and travel expenses (car, gas, etc.)
- **Transfer Students**
 - Please contact the Associate Dean of Nursing Chaudette Miller at miller@westerntc.edu for required textbooks and other required products.

- **Positive Background Check:** Viewpoint Screening will report **all** contacts you have had with law enforcement, including crimes, convictions, pending charges, acquittals and dismissed charges. If there is something on your background check Western staff will review the report and determine whether the item is significant.

Many items are considered insignificant by clinical affiliates and will not prevent you from doing clinical or fieldwork assignments. In that event, you will be notified by email that you have been cleared for clinical or fieldwork.

If your background check reveals a significant item, two clinical sites will be contacted and asked whether they would permit someone with that background to do clinical or fieldwork experience in their facilities. **Clinical sites have the right to refuse clinical placement to any student based on the background check results.** Their response indicates whether it will be difficult for you to gain placement in clinical or fieldwork sites. The Associate Dean who oversees the program will contact you to let you know the decision of the two sites and answer questions you may have. The response of those two sites is not a guarantee of what will happen once you are in the program. It is your decision whether or not to enter the program based on the uncertainty of being accepted at clinical sites.

A student who is convicted of a felony may not be able to practice in the State of Wisconsin according to the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS).

- **Arrests after Background Check is Completed:** Any new arrests or charges must be reported to the Associate Dean of the Nursing program (608-785-9196) within five (5) working days. Failure to do so may result in program dismissal.
- **State Licensure:** Graduates apply to take the National Council Licensure Exam for RNs (NCLEX-RN) as licensure is required to practice. Admission to this exam may be delayed/denied if the applicant has been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony or has a finding of abuse or misappropriation against them by a certifying body. While waiting for results of the NCLEX-RN exam, the graduate is eligible for a temporary permit to practice as a graduate nurse.
- **Special Needs:** If you have a documented disability there may be accommodations that can be made to assist in your successful completion of the program. Please contact the Access and Language Services office at Western (608-785-9875) if you are in need of more information.
- **Body Art and Piercings:** In the Health and Public Safety Division, a student may display no body art or piercing that might be considered offensive. Most employment settings have policies that are generally broad; however, they do reserve the right to deny employment and student clinical/practicum/fieldwork placement if body art or piercings are found to be offensive to those in that setting.
 - The wearing and displaying of jewelry in the health care or public safety setting is generally limited to wrist watches and wedding rings or small non-dangling earrings. The purpose of this limitation is related to infection control, safety, and public perception of the employees while they are on duty.
 - If a Western student has significant visible body art and/or piercings, we are unable to guarantee that the student will be able to be placed for the multiple clinical/practicum/fieldwork experiences that most programs require. You may be asked to cover the body art with clothing or dressings or remove the piercings in order to complete your rotation. If your program has a more restrictive policy on body art or piercings, it will be enforced. It is your decision whether or not to enter the program based on the uncertainty of being accepted at those sites.