

“School Nurse Certification”

Western Kentucky University School of Nursing
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<http://www.wku.edu/chhs/cms/index.php/departments/nursing2/certifications/>

Accreditation: Baccalaureate and Masters programs in the School of Nursing are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

Offering: School Nurse Certification

Description: The School Nurse Certification Program in the School of Nursing at Western Kentucky University exists to prepare the registered nurse to fulfill the multiple roles of the school nurse in K-12 settings. The certification is developed in collaboration with the Educational Professional Standards Board, Kentucky Department of Education.

Primary Role:¹ The school nurse’s primary role is to support student learning by acting as an advocate and liaison between the home, the school, and the medical community regarding concerns that are likely to affect a student’s ability to learn (NASN 1999). The school nurse provides comprehensive services in all eight components of a coordinated school health program (Marx, Wooley, and Northrup 1998):

- Health services: Serves as the coordinator of the health services program, provides nursing care, and advocates for health rights.
- Health education: Provides appropriate health information that promotes informed health care decisions, promotes health, prevents disease, and enhances school performance.
- Environment: Identifies health and safety concerns in the school community and promotes a safe and nurturing school environment.
- Nutrition: Supports school food service programs and promotes the benefits of healthy eating patterns.
- Physical education/activity: Promotes health activities, physical education, and sports policies/practices that promote safety and good sportsmanship.
- Counseling/mental health: Provides health counseling, assesses mental health needs, provides interventions, refers students to appropriate school staff or community agencies, and provides follow-up once treatment is prescribed.
- Parent/community involvement: Promotes community participation in assuring a healthy school and serves as school liaison to a health advisory committee.
- Staff wellness: Provides health education and counseling, promotes health activities and environment for school staff.

¹ 2001 *Scope and Standards of Professional School Nursing Practice*. Washington DC: American Nurses Publishing

School Nurse Certification Curriculum

Nursing 309*	Health Assessment* (Web section for Post-RNs)
Nursing 340	Teaching & Health Promotion in Nursing Practice (Web course)
Nursing 411	School Health Nursing (Web course)
Psychology 310	Educational Psychology (or equivalent course) (Web course offered beginning Spring 2010)
EXED 330	Introduction to Exceptional Child Education (Web course)

**You have the option to take a challenge examination to establish course credit.
For more information on challenge exams, click on Student Handbook at the web address
below under Post-RN/BSN specific policies:
<http://www.wku.edu/chhs/cms/index.php/departments/nursing-2/post-rn>*

WKU course registration information: www.wku.edu on TOPNET under Student Services

Application Procedures

(Mail information to WKU School of Nursing address on front page, Attn: Dr. Crista Briggs)

1. Apply to Western Kentucky University. Application and instructions may be found online at: <http://www.wku.edu/Info/Admissions/>
2. Submit copies of official transcripts documenting undergraduate college course work and awarding of nursing degree to School of Nursing. Copies of student issued transcripts will not be accepted. An undergraduate GPA of 2.5 is required for admission.
3. Complete the School Nurse Certification Application at the WKU School of Nursing Website and submit with \$30 fee to School of Nursing. This is a one-time only fee; it is not required for future credentialing.
4. Submit documentation of eligibility for Rank III (Provisional Certificate), Rank, II (Professional Certificate), or Rank I (Advanced Certificate) as outlined in **16 KAR 2:060. School Nurse**. The eligibility requirements for each can be found at: <http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/016/002/060.htm>
5. After admission to certification program, meet with assigned nursing advisor to plan program and sign learning contract.
6. Approximately 3-4 weeks *prior to completion of the final course* in certificate program complete and submit the appropriate online form from the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board at <http://www.kyepsb.net/certification/certquicklinks.asp> This will either be a “TC-1 Application for Certification or Rank Change” or a “TC-2 Application for Certificate Renewal/Duplicate.”

RN to BSN/Bachelor of Science in Nursing: The School Nurse Certification Program is developed in the context of the RN to BSN program to facilitate the educational mobility of diploma and Associate Degree Nurses. In other words, by getting the School Nurse Certification, you will be making progress toward obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Curriculum and program requirements for the RN to BSN program can be found at:

<http://www.wku.edu/chhs/cms/index.php/departments/nursing-2/post-rn>

For more information, contact Dr. Susan Jones at susan.jones@wku.edu or by phone at (270)-745-3213.

