Thank you for your interest in Penn State’s online Nursing programs. We are proud to be affiliated with Penn State World Campus, consistently ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top providers of online degree programs. This means you can feel confident you are receiving the highest-quality preparation for beginning or advancing your nursing career.

“Nursing education is undergoing a nationwide transformation, with more opportunities for advanced education and lifelong learning than ever before. Penn State’s College of Nursing offers practicing nurses many options for accessible and innovative learning opportunities that support our mission of improving health care for all. Our faculty are among the top in their field, with years of experience in a variety of clinical areas, strong ethical values, and a passion for preparing the next generation of health care providers.

“I strongly encourage you to consider Penn State as you plan your future.”

—Paula Milone-Nuzzo, RN, Ph.D., FHHC, FAAN
Dean, Penn State College of Nursing
Online Programs in Nursing

As a working nurse, you focus every day on taking care of others. Find the time to take care of yourself by advancing your career through one of Penn State’s online nursing programs:

- Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Master of Science in Nursing
- Nurse Administrator Certificate
- Nurse Educator Certificate
- Geriatric Nursing Education Certificate
- RN to B.S. in Nursing
- Nursing Management Certificate
- Nursing Informatics Certificate
- Nursing Forensics Certificate

No matter which program you choose, your courses will be taught by faculty in Penn State’s highly respected College of Nursing. You will receive the same support and credentials as students in our traditional nursing programs, but with the added convenience of studying according to your personal schedule. That means you can earn your degree or certificate without setting foot on campus.

By becoming a registered nurse, you have already dedicated yourself to helping others through nursing. Now, take your career to the next level by applying to one of Penn State’s online nursing programs.

worldcampus.psu.edu/nursing

Penn State offers an online Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree. For more information on this program, visit:

worldcampus.psu.edu/dnp

“The program enabled me to work full-time, thus giving me the opportunity to incorporate my studies with real-life situations. With the knowledge that I have attained from Penn State, I am better placed to thrive in my current role and aspire to new and exciting opportunities.”

—Stacey Okoth
RN to B.S. in Nursing, graduate
Master of Science in Nursing

As a registered nurse with a bachelor’s degree in nursing, you’ve already made a substantial commitment to the field of nursing. You also understand that nurses with advanced nursing degrees have been shown to have a positive effect on patient outcomes. Now, take the next step toward advancing your career in leadership or educational positions with Penn State’s online Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.).

One Degree, Two Options

All students in this program will take 9 credits of core courses designed to help you promote the health of individuals, families, and communities. Then, depending on your professional goals, you will choose one of the following options:

Nurse Administrator

The curriculum in this option can provide you with sophisticated knowledge of organizational leadership, health policy, and evidence-based health care delivery. The courses can also help prepare you for national certification as a nurse executive.

After successful completion of the program, your career path could connect you to leadership positions such as nurse administrator/manager, nurse executive, chief nursing officer, vice president of patient care, or director of quality improvement.

Nurse Educator

The courses in this option can give you an in-depth understanding of evidence-based teaching and learning principles, curriculum development, and evaluative techniques in the field of nursing. In addition, the curriculum can help to prepare you for national certification as a nurse educator.

As a graduate of the program, you could be qualified for health-related educator roles such as director of nurse education/learning, nursing instructor/faculty, patient educator, staff developer, or health care consultant.

“I feel like I can be a better liaison between the business world of health care and advocating for the nurses. I’ve been able to see how a nursing administrator can sit next to the CFO and have conversations about how to make these improvements.”

—Renae Epler
M.S.N. – Nurse Administrator Option, graduate
Curriculum

Penn State World Campus’ 37-credit online M.S.N. program focuses on the complex issues and trends specific to nursing while also providing you with a broad understanding of the dynamic health care industry from global, health policy, and economic perspectives.

M.S.N. Core Courses (9 credits)
- Issues in Nursing and Health Care (3 credits)
- Theoretical and Scientific Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice (3 credits)
- Nursing Research (3 credits)

Nurse Administrator Option
Required Courses (9 credits)
- Health Care Economics and Policy for Nurse Administrators (3 credits)
- Leadership Concepts and Theories for Nurse Administrators (3 credits)
- Human Resource and Workforce Issues for Nurse Administrators (3 credits)

Nurse Educator Option
Required Courses (18 credits)
- Physical Assessment through the Lifespan (3 credits)
- Pathophysiology (3 credits)
- Pharmacologic Therapy (3 credits)
- Nursing Education Theories and Strategies (3 credits)
- Assessment and Evaluation in Nursing Education (3 credits)
- Curriculum and Program Development in Nursing Education (3 credits)

Additional Courses
Along the way, you can further refine your studies by taking elective courses based on your interests and background. Nurse Administrator students will take 12 credits of administration electives. Nurse Educator students will take 3 credits of education electives. You will round out your 37-credit requirements with a 4-credit practicum and a 3-credit capstone course.

Visit worldcampus.psu.edu/msn-courses to view the complete descriptions and a current list of available electives for each option.
Nurse Administrator Certificate

The curriculum in the 9-credit Nurse Administrator Graduate Certificate can provide you with the necessary decision-making and problem-solving strategies for a role in nursing administration.

Expand your knowledge in the business of health care, with topics including health care economics, fiscal planning, and data management—all while learning how these impact patient safety and risk management.

The certificate will cover such factors as organizational structure, power, and politics, and ways that you, as a nurse administrator, can communicate with diverse audiences in complex health care settings. You can also gain the tools to recruit, retain, develop, and evaluate a productive workforce to help your organization provide the best care to your patients.

**Required Courses (9 credits)**

- Health Care Economics and Policy for Nurse Administrators (3 credits)
- Leadership Concepts and Theories for Nurse Administrators (3 credits)
- Human Resource and Workforce Issues for Nurse Administrators (3 credits)

**Optional Course (4 credits)**

- Synthesis and Application of the Nurse Administrator Role (4 credits)

In addition to being excellent stand-alone credentials, all of the required credits in the Nurse Administrator and Nurse Educator graduate certificates can be applied toward the corresponding option of the Master of Science in Nursing program, if you apply to and are accepted into the highly competitive degree program. Both of these certificates require that you have your Bachelor of Science in Nursing to enter the program.
Nurse Educator Certificate

The 9-credit Nurse Educator Graduate Certificate can give you the tools to meet the diverse needs of students in classroom, clinical, and online educational settings. By exploring various theoretical perspectives of teaching and learning, as well as practical application of strategies, this curriculum can help prepare you to employ effective teaching methods.

This certificate also provides a foundation in measurement and evaluation of your students by strategically developing tests, interpreting test results, assessing clinical performance, and evaluating written assignments.

You can also explore factors that influence curriculum development, including faculty roles, program outcomes, curriculum evaluations, contextual factors, and issues with accreditation.

**Required Courses (9 credits)**

- Nursing Education Theories and Strategies (3 credits)
- Assessment and Evaluation in Nursing Education (3 credits)
- Curriculum and Program Development in Nursing Education (3 credits)

**Optional Course (4 credits)**

- Synthesis and Application of the Nurse Educator Role (4 credits)

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Geriatric Nursing Education Certificate

The 12-credit online program was developed by Penn State World Campus in partnership with Penn State’s College of Nursing and the Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence.

**Gain the Skills to Teach Geriatric Nursing**

To help train nurses and other health professionals to care for the nation’s growing number of older adults, the need for more gerontology faculty is urgent. This program can prepare you to become geriatric nursing faculty or to train nursing faculty who will teach registered nurses at the associate or bachelor’s degree level.

To enter this program, you must have already received your master’s degree in nursing, or a related health discipline, from an accredited institution.

**Required Courses (6 credits)**

- Comprehensive Assessment of the Older Adult (3 credits)
- Interventions for Common Health Problems in Older Adults (3 credits)

You will then complete an additional 6 credits related to education from a list of option courses.
RN to B.S. in Nursing

New research and sophisticated technology result in continuous change. Continuing your education with the Penn State World Campus RN to B.S. in Nursing program can help you do more than just keep up with this evolving field. With your new degree, you can be ready for more challenging—and possibly higher-paying—positions in the fast-paced world of nursing.

Open Doors

This degree can also open the door to positions with employers whom you may not have considered before—community agencies, rehabilitation centers, hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, hospices, schools, family planning centers, and business and industry.

Move into Management

Apply your knowledge in a position supervising other nurses and personnel, or change your daily focus with a role in administration. A bachelor’s degree in nursing is also your entry into master’s and Ph.D. programs, so you can prepare for a career as a nurse educator, nurse practitioner, nurse researcher, or nurse anesthetist.

Accelerated RN to B.S.

If you are looking for additional options in the amount of time it takes to complete your degree, the Accelerated RN to B.S. curriculum could be for you. You will receive the same quality instruction in a format that is compressed into seven-and-a-half-week sessions, allowing you to complete your nursing courses more quickly. For ultimate flexibility of your program completion, the accelerated nursing courses can be taken in conjunction with our standard semester-length courses.

“As a nurse, I know how important it is to have a bachelor’s degree in today’s competitive job market. I wanted to continue my education, but work and family obligations made traditional classes impossible. Penn State’s online RN to B.S. program was the perfect fit for me. I could complete assignments day or night as my schedule permitted while working full-time, and without sacrificing time with my family.”

—Andrew W. McLuckie
RN to B.S. in Nursing, graduate
Penn State’s 120-credit RN to B.S. in Nursing program focuses on current topics in the field of nursing, including data management, ethics, and nursing research. Because you are already an RN, you may receive 33 of those credits by portfolio. In addition to program-specific General Education courses, you must complete the following 28 nursing credits to satisfy requirements for the degree:

**Required (22 credits)**
- Understanding and Applying Nursing Research (3 credits)
- Health Assessment (3 credits)
- Introduction to Nursing Informatics (3 credits)
- Transition and the Professional Nursing Role (3 credits)
- Family and Community Health Concepts (4 credits)
- Health Concepts for Adults with Complex Health Care Needs (3 credits)
- Integrated Concepts in Nursing Practice (3 credits)

**Electives (6 credits)**
- **Forensics Nursing Emphasis**
  - Violence and the Impact on Society (3 credits)
  - Introduction to Forensic Nursing (3 credits)
  - Forensic Evidence Collection and Preservation (3 credits)
  - Seminar in Forensic Nursing (3 credits)
- **Informatics Emphasis**
  - Introduction to Nursing Informatics (3 credits)
  - Ethical Challenges in Health Care Informatics (3 credits)
  - Advanced Concepts in Clinical Nursing Informatics (3 credits)
- **Management Emphasis**
  - Organization and Administration for the Nurse Manager (3 credits)
  - Data Management for Nurse Managers (3 credits)
  - Nursing Management of Human Resources (3 credits)
  - Seminar for Nurse Managers (3 credits)

**Other**
- Trauma/Critical Care Nursing (3 credits)
- Nursing Study in Specialized Setting (1–9 credits)
- Independent Studies (1–9 credits)

* The courses within the forensics, informatics, and management emphases can be used to earn your Nursing Forensics Certificate, Nursing Informatics Certificate, or Nursing Management Certificate. For more information, see pages 10–12. Also, please see page 15 for additional information on national certification.
Nursing Management Certificate

The Nursing Management Undergraduate Certificate is a 12-credit program for students who hold a valid U.S. RN license. This online program can help you understand the administration of nursing services, analyze and manage budgetary and other data, and manage nursing personnel. The program can help you acquire the latest techniques and skills, which you can apply in your own health care organization.

Advance Your Career

Move toward a supervisory position with a Nursing Management Certificate from Penn State. This four-course online program can give you the knowledge that employers look for in administration, data management, human resources, and related areas.

The certificate could also be the beginning of your advanced education. Up to 6 credits can be applied toward Penn State’s online RN to B.S. degree, and the courses may also meet graduate-level requirements.

Curriculum

The online Nursing Management Certificate is a 12-credit program of study. To earn this certificate, you must successfully complete the following four courses:

Organization and Administration for the Nurse Manager (3 credits)

Introduction to organizational theory and principles of practice in the administration of nursing services and patient care.

Data Management for Nurse Managers (3 credits)

Analysis of information systems to manage nursing service organizations; includes financial management, the budgeting processes, and productivity measurement.

Nursing Management of Human Resources (3 credits)

Human resource management and related factors in nursing service organizations.

Seminar for Nurse Managers (3 credits)

Course focuses on the application of management principles in the role of the nurse manager.

10 | 800-252-3592
The Nursing Informatics Undergraduate Certificate is a 9-credit online program designed to help prepare you to support, promote, and assist in the implementation and efficient, ethical, and safe use of informatics tools in technology-rich health care environments. The curriculum includes courses on electronic health records, clinical decision support tools, and database management, geared specifically for registered nurses.

**Advance Your Career**

Steady job growth in health care is projected for the next several years. Surpass others on the career ladder by learning informatics practices that you can put to use immediately to demonstrate your competency and advance your career. The certificate can also be used as a stepping-stone into Penn State’s online RN to B.S. program. You can apply all 9 credits toward earning your degree, with 6 credits as part of your electives and 3 credits as part of your required courses.

**Curriculum**

Through this dynamic curriculum, you can learn new skills, including system evaluations, quality improvement, and patient safety, to support organizational knowledge management and to promote public health. To earn this certificate, you must successfully complete the following three courses:

**Introduction to Nursing Informatics (3 credits)**

An introduction to nursing informatics focusing on technology applications to the nursing profession.

**Ethical Challenges in Health Care Informatics (3 credits)**

A case-based collaboratory designed for the exploration and analysis of the ethical dilemmas facing health care informatics practitioners.

**Advanced Concepts in Clinical Nursing Informatics (3 credits)**

An exploration of clinical informatics tools to support informatics practice.
Nursing Forensics Certificate

The Nursing Forensics Undergraduate Certificate is a 12-credit online program designed to help registered nurses gain a foundational knowledge in forensic nursing. The courses in the certificate can give you the tools you need to provide the specialized services for victims and perpetrators of traumatic events. You can learn about evidence collection and preservation; forensic documentation; the recognition of domestic violence, assault, and stalking; as well as legal and ethical issues in this field.

Advance Your Career

A high number of victims of violence, abuse, or neglect access health care services. With the focused preparation you can receive throughout this certificate, you could be equipped for forensic nursing positions in various health care settings, including hospitals, community anti-violence centers, medical examiners/coroner offices, corrections institutions, public health departments, and psychiatric hospitals.

This certificate is an excellent stand-alone credential that you can add to your résumé. You can also apply 6 of the 12 credits of this certificate toward electives in Penn State’s online RN to B.S. program to continue your education even further.

Curriculum

The online Nursing Forensics Certificate is a 12-credit program of study. To earn this certificate, you must successfully complete the following four courses:

Violence and the Impact on Society (3 credits)

Interdisciplinary discussion of violence, its perpetrators, victims, and its impact on society as well as possible solutions for violence reduction.

Introduction to Forensic Nursing (3 credits)

Provides an introduction to the forensic health sciences, forensic nursing, and the nursing role in the scientific investigation of violence.

Forensic Evidence Collection and Preservation (3 credits)

Examines forensic nurse’s role in recognizing injuries/patterns of injury. Evidence collection procedures are examined from collection to courtroom presentation.

Seminar in Forensic Nursing (3 credits)

A seminar to discuss the current topics, trends, and research related to forensic nursing, including evidence-based research, public policy issues, media-related events, regulatory considerations, professional responsibilities, and career planning.
Flexibility That Fits Your Schedule

We understand that you are balancing the demands of job and family and that your schedule can change from day to day and week to week.

Course Options

Study and “attend” class at home, when it is convenient for you—any time of day or night. Using your computer and web access, you will receive course content and complete assignments. The courses have fixed start and end dates, similar to a traditional semester schedule, and you can meet clinical observational requirements in a variety of ways, using a resource near your home.

Studying at home does not mean you are completely on your own, though. You will be part of a robust group of interactive, online students. You will receive support from Penn State advisers and other experts throughout your studies. You will have access to all the traditional support services as well, if you choose to visit the closest Penn State campus. However, the choice is yours; you can complete your degree or certificate without ever setting foot on campus.

Your Penn State Degree

Whether you study online or on campus, or do both, you are earning the same Penn State degree. You will be taught by highly regarded faculty from Penn State’s College of Nursing. In addition, all graduating students receive the same Penn State diploma.

“This experience has allowed me to successfully apply for and be accepted into a very competitive, graduate-level nurse anesthetist program.”

—Al Bortel, RN to B.S. in Nursing, graduate
Frequently Asked Questions

いただける申請を受付しています。

Why is Penn State the best choice for me?

Accreditation:
Penn State B.S. and M.S. nursing programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN) (3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326; 404-975-5000) and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) (One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036; 202-887-6791) and are approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing.

Flexibility and convenience:
Penn State knows that adults need flexible and convenient learning options in order to continue meeting their professional and personal commitments. You can take courses when and where you please, earning your degree at your own pace.

Reputation:
Penn State is universally regarded as one of the finest educational institutions in the United States. Putting a Penn State degree or certificate on your résumé is a great way to broaden your career options and prove to current and potential employers that you are a well-educated professional.

Do you offer an online doctoral program?

Our online Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) program is practice-focused, with two entry options: the B.S. (in Nursing) to D.N.P. (Nurse Administrator) or the M.S.N. (Nurse Administrators and Advanced Practice Nurses) to D.N.P. Visit worldcampus.psu.edu/dnp to request a separate brochure.

What types of student support are available?

Penn State has developed a nationally recognized support system for students who are geographically removed from campus. Our team of academic advisers, technical support experts, customer service representatives, and Penn State instructors can help you get where you want to go.

Can I obtain financial aid to pay for my courses?

Our advisers have been trained to help you make the most of the financial aid options and opportunities available to you.

Is this the real Penn State?

Yes. The World Campus was launched in 1998 as Penn State’s virtual campus administered online. It has since grown into one of the most highly regarded online campuses in the world.

worldcampus.psu.edu/nursing
Begin Your Application Today

To begin taking courses, you need to submit an online application form for the program of your choice. To start the application process, visit worldcampus.psu.edu/nursing, choose your program of interest from the list, and click on “Apply Now.”

To apply to any of Penn State’s online nursing programs, you must be a currently licensed registered nurse. In addition, applicants to the graduate school must have received, from an accredited institution, a baccalaureate degree with requirements substantially equivalent to those at Penn State.

To apply to one of the certificates* or the RN to B.S. program, you need:

- a completed online application form and fee
- official high school transcripts or GED (for undergraduate certificates)
- official college or university transcripts (for graduate certificates)
- official military transcripts (if applicable)
- TOEFL or IELTS score (if applicable)

To apply to the M.S.N. program, you must submit the following:

- a completed online application form and fee
- official transcripts
- letters of reference
- a personal statement of purpose
- TOEFL or IELTS score (if applicable)
- GREs are not required, but will be reviewed as part of your application if you have the scores to submit.

* The curriculum in Penn State’s online certificates may help prepare you for national certification, and you will receive a certificate from Penn State upon successful completion of the courses. However, you will still need to investigate the professional organization’s information on national certification in the field of interest and meet all of the eligibility requirements in order to be awarded the national credential.

Please visit our admissions website for a more detailed description of the requirements and application process:

worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions

Did You Know?

▸ Penn State is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

▸ Recruiters in a Wall Street Journal survey ranked Penn State as No. 1 for producing the best-prepared, most well-rounded graduates.

▸ Nursing courses may satisfy professional continuing education requirements. Students should check with their state boards of nursing for details.