



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN **NURSING (RN TO BSN)**

A self-paced degree program from UW-Milwaukee

Now available in the self-paced, competency-based UW Flexible Option format, the UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing RN to BSN Program is for nurses with associate degrees who would like to earn a baccalaureate degree while still having time for work and family.

New options for working nurses to pursue bachelor's degrees are particularly important in light of the recent Institute of Medicine (IOM) report that calls for 80% of registered nurses (RNs) to be baccalaureate-prepared by the year 2020. The IOM report states, "To respond to these demands of an evolving health care system and meet the changing needs of patients, nurses must achieve higher levels of education and training. One step in realizing this goal is for a greater number of nurses to enter the workforce with a baccalaureate degree or progress to this degree early in their career." (IOM report, 2010, p. 7.)

Self-paced, competency-based format

The UW Flexible Option offers busy adults a new way to earn a college degree, different from traditional face-to-face classroom or online instruction. As a student in this program, you will:

- » **Start any month.** Earn your degree without being locked into (or out of) a traditional semester schedule.
- » **Earn credit for prior learning.** Make the most of what you already know.
- » **Advance at your own pace.** Make progress by passing assessments. Pass one and move on to the next.
- » **Receive personalized support.** Get help and guidance from an Academic Success Coach.
- » **Learn skills employers value.** By passing rigorous assessments, you will prove your mastery of key skills.

Best of all, you will graduate with a degree from a University of Wisconsin institution that is recognized and respected.

Who should apply?

The UW Flexible Option is especially designed for self-motivated nontraditional students who want their previous schooling, work skills, and prior knowledge to apply toward degrees or certificates.

The **competency-based** and **self-paced** format of the UW Flexible Option fits the schedules of students who must balance work and family responsibilities with educational goals. Because most Flexible Option competencies and assessments are delivered online, students have the opportunity to learn when and where they choose.

This self-paced program is ideally suited for students who:

- » Are licensed in Wisconsin as a registered nurse
- » Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher and graduated from an associate-degree program in nursing or diploma program in nursing
- » Are motivated, disciplined self-starters who can work independently
- » Desire the prestige and value of a University of Wisconsin degree



Find out if the Flexible Option is right for you

Take the Flex Fit self-evaluation—a free online survey designed to help you and a Flex Admission Specialist determine whether a Flexible Option program is a good fit for you. Visit flex.wisconsin.edu.

RN to BSN Completion Curriculum

To earn this degree, students must fulfill the General Education Requirements necessary for a UWM bachelor's degree, elective requirements, and the unique competency sets that define this program.

- » Total degree credits required: 124
- » After review of your prior college transcripts, you will be given credit for College Parallel Classes, as well as 60 credits for nursing courses in your associate degree in nursing (ADN) program.
- » A program plan will be developed just for you in which you will know what courses you will have to complete in the liberal arts and in nursing. You can complete these courses through competency assessment, online or face to face.

NON-NURSING

- » English Composition II: 3 credits
- » Humanities: 3-6 credits
- » Arts: 0-3 credits
- » History: 3 credits

Social Science: 9 credits

- » Sociology
- » Psych 101
- » Growth & Development

Natural/Biological Sciences: 21 credits

- » Chemistry
- » Biochemistry (or alternate science course)
- » Anatomy & Physiology I and II
- » Microbiology
- » Nutrition

Electives: 19-25 credits

Competencies

- » Math
- » English

Cultural Diversity (may or may not apply)

Foreign Language (may or may not apply)

For more information about the degree's General Education Requirements, visit flex.wisconsin.edu/general-education-requirements

NEXT STEPS

Take the Flex Fit self-evaluation—a self-paced, online survey designed to help you and a UW Flexible Option Admission Specialist find out if this innovative educational format is the right fit for you. There is no cost for taking the Flex Fit, and no obligation.

Ready to get started? Call 1-877-895-3276 or visit flex.wisconsin.edu today!

NURSING COURSES FROM YOUR ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM: 60 CREDITS

ADVANCED NURSING COURSES (WITH A GRADE OF C OR HIGHER)

- » Foundations of Professional Nursing Practice: 3 credits
- » Leadership and Management: 3 credits
- » Research and Evidence-Based Practice: 3 credits
- » Community Health Nursing: 3 credits
- » Information Management and Health Care Technology: 3 credits
- » Chronic Care Management: 3 credits
- » Nursing Electives: 8-10 credits

Capstone/Practicum (NURS 445): 3 credits

- » A clinical experience applying core competencies to clinical practice.

About the UWM College of Nursing

The UWM College of Nursing is ranked in the top 6% of nursing programs in the nation (*U.S. News & World Report* graduate rankings). UWM faculty lead the nation in cutting-edge research in a number of areas, including self-management science, nursing informatics, nursing models of primary health care, family care in acute and pediatric settings, interventions with elders (including Alzheimer's patients), chronic care management, and health equity. As the largest nursing program in Wisconsin, the college is also exceptionally proud of its more than 7,000 alumni who provide quality evidence-based care, inspiring education, exceptional research, and administrative leadership to improve health care nationally and across the globe.



**A UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN DEGREE**
on your busy schedule?

NOW, it's an option.



UW flexible option
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

flex.wisconsin.edu

Would you like to earn a UW degree,
but don't have time for classes?

Have you considered taking courses online,
but worry about quality, credibility, and cost?

Do you have significant skills and knowledge
gained through prior education or work
experience?

THEN THE
UW Flexible Option
WAS MADE FOR YOU!



With the UW Flexible Option, you can:



Earn credit for what
you know (no matter
where you learned it)



Advance at your own pace



Start and stop your
studies when you want



Test when you are ready



Graduate with the skills
employers value

IT'S TIME to flex your **POTENTIAL**

You're smart. Hardworking. You have the potential to go far. But without a college degree, it's not easy to get ahead. You'd like to go back to school, but between work and family, how would you make it fit?

Introducing the **University of Wisconsin Flexible Option**—a more personalized, convenient, and affordable way to reach your education and career goals.

Take control of your education

A partnership between University of Wisconsin System campuses and UW-Extension, the UW Flexible Option is specially designed to fit the lives of working adults like you.

Its self-paced, competency-based format lets you start any month, work at your pace, and earn credit for what you already know. With the Flexible Option, you don't come to campus and you'll never spend time or money taking courses you don't need.

At last, you can earn the University of Wisconsin degree you need to advance your career—whenever and wherever your schedule allows!

TURN THE PAGE

to see how the UW Flexible Option
lets you earn a respected degree
at a pace that fits your life.

COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

IT'S WHAT YOU KNOW

that counts

The University of Wisconsin Flexible Option offers a new way to earn a UW degree or certificate because it awards credit based on competency, not class time. This special difference puts you in control of your education as never before.

In education, the term *competency* refers to the skills, knowledge, attitudes, and abilities that students are expected to master in a field of study. In other words, competencies are learning outcomes—the things you should know and be able to do.

The idea of competencies is not unique to the UW Flexible Option. What is unique is the Flexible Option's competency-based format. Unlike traditional degree programs, the Flexible Option lets you earn credit based on how well you've mastered the competencies that are essential to your chosen degree—not on the number of hours you've spent in a classroom.

Learn at your own pace . . .

By emphasizing competency over credit hours, the UW Flex Option lets you advance toward a UW degree at a pace you decide. As soon as

you can pass an assessment that proves you have mastered a competency—whether it's a test, thesis paper, interview, or hands-on demonstration—you can move on to the next competency and assessment.

. . . and earn credit for what you already know.

A major benefit of competency-based education is that it allows you to draw upon existing knowledge to make progress toward your degree. It doesn't matter where you gained your knowledge—from prior courses, work experience, military training, or other experiences. If you know it, you can use it to pass assessments more quickly—and potentially accelerate your time to graduation.

ACCREDITED PROGRAMS ARE

FLEXIBLE & focused on you

The UW Flexible Option puts you at the center of your college education. Its competency-based format gives you the freedom and tools to earn a respected University of Wisconsin degree at your own pace, whenever and wherever your schedule allows.

Start and stop studies when you want

- » Begin any month
- » Study when and where it's convenient
- » Take breaks when you need to

Advance at your own pace

- » Make progress by passing assessments
- » Accelerate your time to graduation
- » Take more time if you need it

Test when you're ready

- » Take practice assessments
- » Prepare using quality learning resources

Earn credit for what you know

- » Complete assessments using existing knowledge
- » Never spend time or money taking courses you don't need

Get support from an Academic Success Coach

- » Create a personalized learning plan
- » Get help preparing for assessments
- » Plan a schedule that's right for you

Master essential competencies

- » Gain real-world skills
- » Prove your knowledge through rigorous assessments
- » Be prepared to succeed in the workplace

Graduate with a genuine UW credential

- » Receive your degree from a partnering UW System institution
- » UW Flex Option degrees are the same degrees offered by traditional programs

Master the skills employers value

A degree is only as good as the education behind it. That's why distinguished UW faculty draw upon the latest standards in business and industry to identify the essential competencies required for graduation. This ensures that UW Flexible Option students are equipped with the knowledge and skills employers want and need.



move forward **AT YOUR OWN PACE**

WITH HELP FROM A PERSONAL SUCCESS COACH

Earning a UW degree through the Flexible Option format is every bit as challenging as earning a UW degree through traditional means. You'll be expected to meet the same rigorous academic standards for which all UW degrees are known. That's why the UW Flexible Option partners every student with an Academic Success Coach for personalized mentoring and advising.

Your coach will work with you to create a learning plan and timeline customized to fit your goals and knowledge. He or she will also help you prepare for assessments and

point you to the learning resources you need to succeed. These resources can include textbooks, Web pages, and free online resources offered by other universities—as well as credit-based courses, structured internships, service projects, and work and practical experiences.

The UW Flexible Option puts you in control of your own learning, but your Academic Success Coach is always there to help.

Save time and money with flat-rate tuition

The UW Flexible Option offers an affordable way to earn a UW degree or certificate. Instead of paying by course or by credit, you pay a flat rate for a subscription period you choose. Are you highly motivated with lots of experience? Choose the "All-You-Can-Learn" option to move as fast as you are able through your competencies and assessments. Want to study at a slower pace? The "Single Competency-Set" option is for you. Visit flex.wisconsin.edu for details.

Hiring managers prefer public university degrees

When asked their overall opinion of the four major higher education options, hiring managers ranked public universities highest (88% positive) compared with private (82%), community (76%), and for-profit colleges (60%).

Source: Brand Perceptions in Higher Education (US), ipsos OTX, commissioned by Google, fall 2011.

achieve **YOUR GOALS**

WITH A UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EDUCATION

Where you get your degree is important. The University of Wisconsin System is one of the largest and most widely respected organizations in the country for delivering public higher education. UW Flexible Option programs are created by the same faculty using the same rigorous content and standards as traditional UW programs. That means you will graduate with the same high-quality degree as students who attend class on campus. A degree that is recognized and respected. These are UW degrees, made to fit your schedule—so you can flex your potential!

**IS THE
UW Flexible Option
RIGHT FOR YOU?**

Now's a great time to find out!

Visit flex.wisconsin.edu for more information, including a list of current degree program offerings. Then call **1-877-895-3276** for a personalized consultation to discuss your goals and readiness for this innovative program.



GETTING A UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN EDUCATION

just got more
FLEXIBLE

Built on the long-standing foundation of high-quality University of Wisconsin degree programs, the UW Flexible Option offers busy adult learners a smart new way to earn a degree or certificate. Start anytime, advance at your own pace, and earn credit for what you already know. At last, you can earn the University of Wisconsin degree you've always wanted, but never had time to get.



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