Nurses are an essential part of the health care profession. They provide care, comfort, and education to the patients with whom they come in contact. They also work with doctors and other health professionals in providing treatment to patients and managing the clinic, hospital, long term care, or other setting. The Department of Nursing at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire seeks to educate nursing students at the baccalaureate, masters, or doctoral level in an environment that fosters scholarly activity. UW–Eau Claire’s nursing program is an accredited program that requires students to apply for entrance during the semester in which 30 credits are completed. A comprehensive major in nursing is offered.

Typical interests and values of nursing majors:
- Attention to detail
- Organizational skills
- Compassion and Confidentiality
- Leadership
- Patience
- Desire to help others in need
- Understanding of different cultures and backgrounds
- Strong understanding of the sciences

Knowledge and skills gained from studying nursing:

Knowledge:
Graduates with a bachelor of science in nursing (B.S.N.) degree will have knowledge of nursing and medical procedures and instrumentation, legal and ethical aspects of health care, nursing theory, and teaching strategies that assist patients in the understanding and management of health and illness conditions they encounter. They will have a foundational background in the arts and sciences.

Skills:
- Provides physical care
- Coordinates work with others
- Ability to supervise and assess others
- Ability to follow written and oral instructions
- Effective communication techniques
- Ability to explain and answer questions
- Ability to keep records
- Ability to analyze, interpret, and evaluate
- Accurately gathering and reporting information
- Providing appropriate feedback
- Problem-solving and critical thinking
- Extracting important information
- Developing rapport

- Providing support for others
- Perceiving feelings and situations
- Decision making with others
- Managing time and attending to detail
- Accepting responsibility
- Ability to advocate for patients, families, and populations

Related student and professional organizations:

Student:
- Best Buddies
- American Cancer Society Colleges Against Cancer
- Student Nurse Association (ECSNA)
- Farming Hope

Professional:
- American Association of Critical Care Nurses
- American Nurses Association
- Association of periOperative registered Nurses
- American Psychiatric Nurses Association
- American Geriatric Nurses Association

Career fields related to a nursing degree:

Potential Employers:
Nursing graduates can use their education in a variety of fields. In many cases, their positions closely relate to their personal career interests, work values, and transferable skills. Employers of nursing graduates include hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, clinics, home health agencies, correctional facilities, public health departments, and schools. Nursing graduates with appropriate credentialing and education can also be self-employed as midwives.
Potential Job Titles:
- Registered Nurse
- Intensive Care Nurse
- School Nurse
- Home Health Nurse
- Educator
- Infection Control Nurse
- Camp Nurse
- IV/Chemotherapy Nurse
- Clinical Nurse
- Nurse Anesthetist
- Nurse Practitioner
- Occupational Health Nurse
- Gerontological Nurse
- Community Health Educator
- Surgical Nurse
- Jobs You Might Also Consider...
- Mental Health Counselor
- Nurse-Midwife
- Social Service Technician
- Psychiatric Technician
- Physical Therapist Aide
- Recreational Therapist
- Substance Abuse Counselor
- Child Life Specialist
- Respiratory Therapy Technician
- Social and Community Service Manager

Sample entry-level jobs held by UW–Eau Claire nursing graduates:
- Registered Nurse, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
- HIV Program Coordinator/Registered Nurse, West Side Community Health Center, St. Paul, MN
- Implementation Consultant, Logicare, Eau Claire, WI
- Nurse Clinician, UW-Hospital & Clinics, Madison, WI
- Research Assistant, Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, WI
- Public Health Nurse, Sawyer County, Hayward, WI

Learn more about nursing: Department
- Contact UW–Eau Claire’s Department of Nursing; Nursing Building 103, (715)836-5287

Getting Started at Career Services:
- Meet with a career counselor
- Take interest inventory and self-assessment tests
- Utilize Blugold Career Success Network, a database of UW–Eau Claire alumni & friends available for informational interviewing
- Utilize Blugold CareerLink, an online job search database specifically for UWEC students and alum

Resources at Career Services:
Yellow Section-
- Sigi 3 bins:
  - Nursing
  - Midwife; Nursing
  - Nurse Practitioner

Orange Section-
- "The Internship Series: For the Common Good: Internships with Community and Social Service Agencies"
- Computers: Internship Center Database and Blugold CareerLink

Blue Section-
- "Hospital Blue Book"
- "The National Directory of Children, Youth & Families Services"
- "Job Opportunities in Health & Science"
- Multiple resources that will help you create a resume and cover letter for a career in nursing

Opportunities to enhance skills in nursing:
Clinicals
Many of the courses in Nursing involve a clinical laboratory component. During these clinicals, nursing students gain a variety of experiences in hospital, nursing home, or other health care or community settings.

Teaching Apprenticeships
A teaching apprenticeship can enhance a student’s knowledge of a specific nursing subject, as well as improving communication skills. These 1-3 credit courses are available to qualified students who wish to assist in the teaching of a specific course. Teaching apprentices are selected and supervised by Department of Nursing faculty members. Contact your adviser for more information.

Directed Studies or Independent Study Class
By participating in a directed studies or independent study class, students will be able to research an area that they find particularly interesting. Contact your adviser for more information.

What you can do now:
- Get a part-time job at a local hospital or nursing home.
- Volunteer at a local nursing home.
- Gain experience caring for others through child care or working with individuals with disabilities.
- Complete CNA training and certification
- Complete CPR training at the health care provider level