

Program Information

How many students are accepted each year into the Associate of Nursing program?

The top 40 scores, as determined using the published admission ranking criteria, will be accepted into the program.

Please consider attending a [Healthcare Information Session](#) before applying. They are offered twice a month (Ada & Canyon County Campuses). By attending a Healthcare Information Session early in the process, you will be well aware of all the requirements and can make alternate plans to coursework if needed.

Is there a waitlist to get into the program?

We accept new applications every spring for fall admission. There is no waitlist. Students who wish to be considered for application must reapply each year by resubmitting an application. Previously submitted applications will not be available to students who want to reapply. It is recommended that applicants keep personal copies of all the submitted documentation for the application process.

Is the program full-time? Is it during the day, night, online?

Primarily courses are Monday thru Friday, during the day. This varies by semester and by clinical site. At this time, there are no online courses available for the AS Nursing program.

Once admitted, how long is the Associate of Nursing program?

The Associate of Science in Nursing Program is four sequential semesters (fall & spring only) or two academic years, starting every fall semester.

Once accepted into the AS in Nursing Program what kind of grades do I need to maintain to pass?

At the very least, you will need a "C" or better in every course, as well as a 75% test average, and a "Pass" in every clinical/lab experience to progress to the next semester.

Where will my clinical experiences be?

Clinical experience sites are arranged through a series of coordinated efforts with other facilities and schools throughout the Treasure Valley. Students do not choose where or when their clinical experiences will be.

Is your nursing program accredited?

On August 6, 2013, the College of Western Idaho (CWI) Nursing program announced it had been approved for initial accreditation with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), formerly the National League for Nursing Accreditation (NLNAC). The ACEN Board of Commissioners recommended initial accreditation for the program following a site review completed in late January 2013.

“This national accreditation signifies the quality of CWI’s nursing program. Students’ graduating from the program and successfully passing NCLEX exam will be able to transfer on to bachelor and graduate nursing programs and receive preferential employability with healthcare organizations,” said Cathleen Currie, CWI Assistant Dean for Health and Human Services.

“Garnering accreditation for our nursing programs involves virtually every area of our college from our One Stop Student Services team who help students through the enrollment process, to the faculty in our academic areas building the foundational skills, to the nursing instructors who provide exceptional hands-on learning opportunities for our students to succeed.”

Initial accreditation was awarded in 2013. In March 2018, the CWI Nursing Program was recommended for an additional eight year accreditation period following a rigorous review process of CWI’s self-study report, the College catalog, curriculum review, a site visitor’s report, a recommendation by the Program Evaluators and Evaluation Review Panel. . The ACEN is responsible for the specialized accreditation of a wide variety of nursing education programs, including clinical doctorate, masters, bachelors, associate, diploma, and practical programs.

Also, see our [Nursing](#) page for more details.

Will you help us get a job after graduation?

The nursing program may write letters of recommendation and post job openings. Additionally, numerous resources are available to assist you in your job search and resume writing through your Student Success Advisor.

Transfer Information

Can I transfer into a BSN program?

Nursing courses from associate degree programs do not usually transfer directly into BSN programs. However, once you have **acquired the Registered Nurse license**, there is multiple RN to BSN completion programs available to you.

I'm an LPN. Can I transfer into the AS in Nursing program?

You may apply to the AS in Nursing program. Current healthcare certifications give you points for your application but do not shorten the time to AS in Nursing degree.

How do credits transfer from a quarter system?

Many courses from accredited programs/colleges will transfer. To be sure of the transferring coursework, you will want to apply to CWI online and submit your official transcripts directly from each college/university to One Stop Student Services, MS 1000, PO 3010, Nampa, ID 83653. CWI will then evaluate your transcripts and send you a Transcript Evaluation Report by mail. Students who have a Bachelor's degree should complete a [Bachelor's Degree Transfer Credit Request Form](#). You may also visit [Transfer Information](#) to view a conversion chart.

Quarter system credits are converted to semester credit hours upon evaluation. Below is an example of how converted credits would be used to calculate your points for Step 3 on the AS Nursing Application.

You will follow the same equation for calculating GPA: Total number of quality/grade points ÷ Total number of credits taken = GPA

For this example let's say you received a "B" for Math at 2.66 credits, "A" for ANAT 211 at 3.33 credits, "B" for ANAT 212 at 3.33 credits, and "C" for MMBS 111 at 3.33 credits.

Here is how the math works for this example:

MATH – 2.66 x 3 = 7.98 grade points

ANAT 211 – 3.33 x 4 = 13.32 grade points

ANAT 212 – 3.33 x 3 = 9.99 grade points

MMBS 111 – 3.33 x 2 = 6.66 grade points

To get a total number of grade points, add 7.98+13.32+9.99+6.66 (37.95) and divide by total number of credits 2.66+3.33+3.33+3.33 (12.65).

37.95 grade points ÷ 12.65 credits = 3.0 GPA

Step 3 asks you to multiply your GPA for the four courses by two, giving you 6 points for this step on the AS Nursing application.

If I have completed my bachelor's degree and wanted to apply to the CWI AS in Nursing program, how do I find out what transferred to CWI so I can apply?

At CWI we do not automatically evaluate Bachelor's and/or Master's degrees. To find out what courses transferred to CWI, you need to submit a completed [Bachelor's Degree Transfer Credit Request Form](#).

It has been 15+ years since I was in college. Will everything transfer?

Starting in Fall 2018 (Spring 2018 application), Math, Anatomy and Physiology I & 2, and Microbiology must all be taken within the last seven years of the time you apply. Please see the information on demonstrating competency for courses that are older than seven years.

Many courses from accredited programs/colleges will transfer. To be sure of the transferring coursework, you will want to [apply to CWI online](#) and submit your official transcripts directly from each college/university to One Stop Student Services, MS 1000, P.O. Box 3010, Nampa, ID 83653. CWI will then evaluate your transcripts and send you a Transcript Evaluation Report by mail. The Transcript Evaluation Report is your key to knowing which courses transferred to CWI!

It has been years since I completed most of my college courses - what specific courses would you suggest I take?

Starting in Fall 2018 (Spring 2018 application), Math, Anatomy & Physiology I & 2, and Microbiology must all be taken within the last seven years of the time you apply. If you're unsure of which other courses to take we recommend meeting with your assigned Student Success Advisor.

What is the process for demonstrating current competency in math and science courses that are older than seven years?

The following information is provided as a guideline. For assistance in this process, please work with your assigned Student Success Advisor.

Math Class Option

For students to show competency in math courses that are seven (7) years or older, students may choose to do the following:

1. Schedule a time to take the Math Diagnostic Test at the [Assessment and Testing Center](#) (minimum 12-hour advance scheduling is required) by visiting www.cwidaho.cc/exam
2. Select your preferred testing site, Placement Testing, Admissions Placement Testing and Math Placement.
3. Students will need to show mastery of units 1-4 on the diagnostic. This is done by achieving a score of 80% or higher on Units 0, 1, & 2 and a score of 70% or higher on Units 3 & 4.

4. Upon successful completion, students will receive a print out from the testing center to confirm status. This form MUST be included in the application packet.

Please note, you may repeat the test once but will need permission from the department chair of math to take the assessment a third time.

Science Class Options

For students to show competency in ANAT 211, ANAT 212, MMBS 111, or MMBS 250 courses that are seven (7) years or older there are a few options:

1. Students may take ANAT 280 (currently a spring term course) to prove current competency in Anatomy and Physiology. Successful completion of this course would allow original course points to count in the application process.
2. A student who took MMSB 111 could take MMBS 250 to prove current competency without duplicating coursework. If choosing this option, the new course, MMBS 250 will be the course counted on the application.
3. Courses which have exceeded the seven-year window may be considered for points on the nursing program application by demonstrating current competency by successfully completing a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA). Exams related to the lab component of these courses are not required for demonstration of current proficiency.
 - Schedule a time to take the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) at the [Assessment and Testing Center](#) (minimum 12-hour advance scheduling is required) by visiting www.cwidaho.cc/exam
 - Select your preferred testing site, CWI Student Exams and Challenge Exams/Prior Learning Assessment and then select either ANAT 211, ANAT 212, MMBS 111, MMBS 106 Prior Learning Assessment, depending on the exam needed to show your current competency.
 - A nominal fee is required at the time of scheduling.
 - Students can retake the exam with at least one week between attempts on any given course. Repeated attempts are assessed the fee each time; students should be prepared to pay the fee at the time of retake.
 - The proficiency exam will not change the original grade the student earned in the course rather show competency for science courses outside the seven-year timeframe.
 - Students who earn 70% on the exam will receive an email from the department chair confirming their successful pass.
 - Submit a copy of the email confirming your successful pass in your nursing application which will allow the original course(s) and grade(s) to count in the application points.

Application Questions

I have questions about applying to the AS in Nursing program. Who should I talk to?

Please attend which are held twice a month at the Ada and Canyon County campuses. We also encourage you to meet with your advisor to discuss applying.

Please attend a **Healthcare Information Session** to learn more about submitting a competitive application. These are held twice a month at the Ada and Canyon County campuses. If you are not a current student, you can connect with an enrollment specialist by contacting the One Stop at 562-3000. If you are a current student who has questions about academic planning related to this program, we encourage you to meet with your assigned advisor.

What are the pre-requisites to the AS Nursing program?

There are currently no pre-requisite courses for this program. However, many classes give you points for your application if they are complete. Please review the AS Nursing Application for information on how points are calculated. This program is a competitive program, so most students who are accepted have most, or all of the courses listed on the application completed before admission.

Can I obtain additional points on the application for current medical certifications?

Yes - you can obtain additional points on the application for specific and current medical certifications. Please refer to the **AS in Nursing Application** to find out which medical certifications are accepted and their corresponding points.

Do we need to take the Kaplan Nursing Admissions Test before acceptance?

Yes - the successful completion and corresponding score on a Kaplan Nursing Admission Test will be an important part of the application process moving forward. Information is on-line at: <https://www.kaptest.com/nursing-educators/admissions-test>. You will always want to study for and complete the most current available Kaplan Nursing Admission Test (note, only two attempts permitted per calendar year). Test scores are good up to five years. When you apply to the AS in Nursing program, you will need to include a copy of your best Kaplan scores to date. For more information on how we score applications, please see our **AS in Nursing Application**.

For more information on assessment services or to schedule a test, please visit <https://cwidaho.cc/current-students/assessment-and-testing-centers> or contact the Assessment Center at **208.562.2542, 208.562.2440** or email cwiproctor@cwidaho.cc.

How do I take the Kaplan Nursing Admissions Test?

The recommended steps in completing the Kaplan Nursing Admissions Test is as follows:

- Schedule a time to take the Kaplan Nursing Admissions Test at the [Assessment and Testing Center](#) (usually advanced noticed is needed).
- Select Certification Exams and then Kaplan Nursing Test and schedule your test.

Next, visit <https://www.kaptest.com/nclex/partner/college-of-western-idaho> and follow the enrollment steps to register your account. Please note, we do not recommend setting up your Kaplan account more than 30 days prior to your test date.

For more information on assessment services, please visit <https://cwidaho.cc/current-students/assessment-and-testing-centers> or contact the Assessment Center at **208.562.2542, 208.562.2440** or email cwiproctor@cwidaho.cc.

Is there a limit of how many times I may attempt the Kaplan Nursing Admissions Test?

Yes. There are only two attempts per calendar year allowed for the Kaplan Nursing Admissions Test.

Does it matter whether what math course I have when I apply to the AS Nursing Program?

Any GEM 3 course can be used for your math requirement on the nursing application. Applicants will receive the same amount of points for any course that meets the GEM 3 requirement. Some GEM 3 math courses are better suited for long-term plans or other goals; we recommend working with your assigned Student Success Advisor in determining which GEM 3 math course you complete.

How do I get more information about applying to the health programs at CWI?

One of the best places to obtain all kinds of great information about health programs at CWI is to attend a bi-monthly **Healthcare Information Session** (Ada & Canyon County Campuses). It is a great venue for gathering tips and strategies on how to become the most competitive applicant you can be!

What if I am almost done with my pre and co-requisites, I have submitted my application, and I am waiting to find out if I have been accepted?

Until you are accepted into a Healthcare Program at CWI, you may declare any major. Most students declare Health Science AS or Biology – Human Biology AS. Most of the AS in Nursing courses that are needed to apply to the program are included within either one of those degrees.

When do you accept applications for the AS in Nursing Program?

We only accept AS in nursing applications once a year (January 1st thru March 1st).

How do I calculate my GPA on the Nursing application?

Total number of quality/grade points ÷ Total number of credits taken = GPA

For this example let's say you received a "B" for Math at 3 credits, "A" for ANAT 211 at 4 credits, "B" for ANAT 212 at 4 credits, and "C" for MMBS 111 at 4 credits.

Here is how the math works for this example:

MATH – 3 x 3 = 9 quality points

ANAT 211 – 4 x 4 = 16 quality points

ANAT 212 – 4 x 3 = 12 quality points

MMBS 111 – 4 x 2 = 6.66 quality points

To get total number of grade points, add 9+16+12+8 (45) and divide by total number of credits 3+4+4+4 (15)

45 quality points ÷ 15 credits = 3.0 GPA

Step 3 asks you to multiply your GPA for the four courses by two, giving you 6 points for this step on the AS Nursing application.

I took MMBS 250 but not MMBS 111. Can I use MMBS 250 instead of 221 on my nursing application?

MMBS 250 can be taken instead of MMBS 111 to fulfill the microbiology requirement for the Nursing Applications. Students who complete MMBS 250 will need to obtain an academic exception after being admitted to the program and will need to fulfill the GEM 4 requirement with an additional course from the approved list.

My Health Science 'view my progress' already has a math course listed under the math requirements section. I want to use a different math course for my nursing application. Can I do that?

You can use any GEM 3 course that you have completed with a 'C' or higher as long as it is listed in your 'view my progress.' Make sure to document on your application which math you are using.

I have a felony. Can I apply to the CWI Nursing program?

Please refer to our [Background Check Info](#) document.