



GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

Access • Affordability • Growth

Nursing Initiative

What is the Nursing Initiative?

The University of Wisconsin System is working to increase the number of nurse educators and new nursing graduates for the state of Wisconsin. This request will leverage work already being done by UW System Schools and Colleges of Nursing through two Federal grants and will expand opportunities for accelerated nursing degrees, reach new areas of the state, and enhance on-line distance education for place-bound students.

What are the benefits of the Nursing Initiative?

The initiative has two goals:

- 1) To increase the number of nurses with master's degrees and advanced practice nurses committed to faculty/clinical educator positions in the state of Wisconsin; and
- 2) To increase the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses for the state of Wisconsin.

New funding will support innovative and creative strategies:

- Expanding off-site programs at UW-Eau Claire, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Green Bay, and UW-Milwaukee to reach areas of the state that currently do not have access to nursing programs. These areas include Marshfield, Wausau, Rhinelander, and Washington County;
- Developing new accelerated programs at UW-Eau Claire and UW-Madison to serve students who already have a bachelor's degree in other fields but who want to make a career change;
- Increasing the capacity in graduate programs at UW-Oshkosh, UW-Milwaukee, and UW-Madison to increase the pipeline of future nursing faculty and clinical instructors.

What would the Nursing Initiative mean for Wisconsin?

Recruitment into the nursing profession has become a priority for nursing schools and employers alike in Wisconsin. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of applications to nursing programs. The bad news is that there are inadequate numbers of nurse educators to meet the accelerating demand. In addition to nurse educator shortages, projected nursing shortages will also affect Wisconsin. In the next 15 years, the demand for nurses in the state will exceed supply by 13 percent. The UW System must build the capacity of its educational institutions by increasing academic and clinical faculty, and preparing more baccalaureate nurses who, in turn, have the potential to become nurse educators.

Estimated ongoing cost: \$3.1 million (\$2 million GPR / \$1.09 million Fees)

For more information: Contact UW System Communications and External Relations, 608-263-5512