

The online WOC Nursing program prepares the baccalaureate registered nurse to function in the role of a specialist, and to gain evidenced based knowledge that is directly applied to the care of patients with wound, ostomy, and continence care needs. This is achieved using learning activities whereby the participant develops presentations and documents that are immediately useful to begin a WOC nursing practice. As a nurse specialist, the ability to set up a more autonomous practice focusing on legal, regulatory, quality, and business planning is important.

This program is designed to meet the WOCN® curriculum blueprint criteria (www.WOCN.org). The topics we cover include Professional Practice, Wound, Ostomy, and Continence. There are four didactic courses followed by a Practicum course. Each course is four weeks in length with a one week break between courses. Contact hours are awarded for each course. Participants may choose from single, dual, or full scope education tracks. Each of these options begins with the “Beginning Concepts in WOC Nursing” course as the prerequisite.

General course activities include weekly participation in discussion blogs (considered classroom time), weekly lessons, and weekly assignments. Program completion allows the participant to utilize the signature “WOC Nurse” as well as results in the participant being certification eligible through the WOCNCB. The academic week runs Monday through Sunday allowing participant flexibility in planning to accomplish each week’s activities. Most participants will spend approximately 12-15 hours a week on course activities. Life, work, and school balance is important and making good use of a time management calendar is very helpful.

The use of APA (American Psychologist Association) style and formatting is used for all assignments. Additionally, the use of current literature is an important aspect to developing up to date and evidence based work. Access to Cleveland Clinic’s online alumni medical library and an online APA formatting tool is provided to assist students with obtaining current literature and APA formatting of assignments.

WOC Nurses are highly valued and in demand due to the specialized knowledge and skill in caring for patients with very unique and difficult situations. It is our desire to prepare WOC nurses for positions in many care settings, including (but not limited to) acute care, long-term care, outpatient, home care and hospice, and industry.

Program Terminal Objectives:

1. Apply concepts of gastrointestinal, genitourinary, and integumentary anatomy and physiology, to the care of people with wounds, ostomies, and/or continence concerns.
2. Relate pathophysiology, diagnostic tests, and medical and surgical management options to the care of people with wounds, ostomies, and/or continence care concerns.
3. Plan for patient and family education and rehabilitation in a variety of practice settings related to complex wound, ostomy, and continence care.
4. Formulate effective verbal, written, and electronic communication skills with other healthcare professionals, patients, families, and the community.
5. Demonstrate increasing clinical expertise in caring for patients with complex wounds, ostomies, and continence care concerns.

Course descriptions

1. Basic Concepts in WOC Nursing – Prerequisite to all other courses
 - a. Have a basic understanding of business concepts and quality management, legal and regulatory issues, and using research and evidence based literature to guide practice is an important concept for nurses who are starting an autonomous role as a specialist.
 - b. This course is designed to empower the RN with basic business planning, legal & regulatory issues, developing presentations, and using current research and evidence based literature to guide a safe and effective specialty practice.
 - c. Successful completion of the course includes achieving 80% of the possible points; completing all lessons, discussions, and assignments; and completion/submission of the course evaluation. 55 contact hours of continuing education is awarded on successful completion of the course.
 - d. Required textbook: Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses Society™ (2013). *Professional practice manual* (4th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer ISBN #798-1-4698-4717-7 (available through the www.wocn.org bookstore or through www.nursingcenter.com).
2. Chronic and Acute Wounds
 - a. This course covers a wide variety of acute and chronic wound types as well as the healing process. Topics include skin anatomy & physiology, skin lesions, types of altered skin integrity, wound healing physiology, nursing assessment and management of wounds, topical therapies and advanced modalities, pressure ulcers, atypical wounds, debridement, and lower extremity wounds. Students will learn the physiology of the different types of wounds, holistic assessment and management strategies, and measuring effectiveness of the plan of care.
 - b. Successful completion of the course includes achieving 80% of the possible points; completing all lessons, discussions, and assignments; and completion/submission of the course evaluation. Fifty-six (56) contact hours of continuing education is awarded on successful completion of the course.
 - c. Required textbook: Doughty, D. & McNichol, L. (Eds.). (2016). *WOCN® Core curriculum: Wound management*. Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer ISBN #798-1-4698-4717-7 (available through the WOCN® or through Amazon in kindle and paperback formats).
3. Fecal and Urinary Diversions
 - a. This course takes the nurse from understanding different ostomy and diversion types, diseases and surgeries that can result in a stoma, how to preoperatively mark for a stoma, caring for the person with an ostomy, issues of sexuality & body image, pouching technologies and pouch fitting, managing associated skin conditions, using accessory products to manage odor and challenging pouching situations, and continent diversions.
 - b. Successful completion of the course includes achieving 80% of the possible points; completing all lessons, discussions, and assignments; and completion/submission of the

course evaluation. 55 contact hours of continuing education is awarded on successful completion of the course.

- c. Required textbook: Carmel, J., Goldberg, M., & Colwell, J. (Eds.). (2016). *WOCN® Core curriculum: Ostomy management*. Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer. ISBN-13: 978-1451194395 (available through the WOCN® or through Amazon in kindle and paperback formats).

4. Urinary and Fecal Incontinence

- a. Managing the patient with continence concerns requires a combination of focused nursing assessment and management skills combined with the interdisciplinary team process. In this course students will learn about normal continence mechanisms, acute and chronic causes and types of urinary and fecal incontinence, focused assessment strategies, laboratory testing, medication and behavioral management techniques, and containment options to use in the care of the person with continence issues. The use of these strategies are important to the care of wound and ostomy patients as well. Continence nurses combine nursing assessment and interventions with appropriate physician referral to achieve improved continence.
- b. Successful completion of the course includes achieving 80% of the possible points; completing all lessons, discussions, and assignments; and completion/submission of the course evaluation. 52 contact hours of continuing education is awarded on successful completion of the course.
- c. Required textbook: Doughty, D. & Moore, K. (Eds.). (2016). *WOCN® Core curriculum: Continence management*. Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer. ISBN-13: 978-1451194418 (available through the WOCN® or through Amazon in kindle and paperback formats).

5. Practicum Course

- a. This course is designed to apply what is learned in the didactic courses into practice. With an approved preceptor, a student will gain skills in working with people who have wound, ostomy, and continence care needs. A preceptor will also take the student through the specific skills needed to function in his/her practice.
- b. Forty (40) clinical hours are required for each scope completed, which means single scope participants will complete at least 40 hours of precepted clinical hours, dual scope participants will complete at least 80 hours of precepted clinical hours, and the full scope participant will complete at least 120 precepted clinical hours. Additionally, the full scope participant will integrate the care of WOC patients through a complex case study assignment (preceptors and instructors will give the student direction).
- c. On completion of the clinical hours, skill checks, and clinical assignments, there is a comprehensive final exam for each content area. 80% is required to pass the exams and the instructor will guide students through this process.
- d. Once all elements are satisfactorily completed, students will be awarded the WOC Nurse diploma from Cleveland Clinic and are eligible for certification through the www.WOCNCB.org.