

## IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

### ***PROGRAM TITLE: ASSOCIATE DEGREE REGISTERED NURSE (ADRN)***

**Information included in this handout may change at anytime without notice and should not be considered as a binding contract between Idaho State University and students.**

**Program Options & Length:** Associate of Science Degree - Nursing 3-4 ½ Semesters

The prerequisite for entry into the Associate Degree Registered Nurse (ADRN) program is that the student be a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). It is designed as a means for LPN's to earn their Associate of Science degree as well as eligibility to sit for the RN licensure examination.

Students in the ADRN program receive classroom, laboratory, and clinical practicum instruction that provide eligibility for them, as graduates, to write the NCLEX—RN licensure examination. Successfully passing this examination creates eligibility for the graduate to be licensed to practice as an RN in Idaho and other states as allowed by law. [Program graduation and Passing NCLEX-RN are not a guarantee for state licensure]. Graduates are prepared to render competent nursing care in a variety of health care settings including hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, medical offices, home health agencies, and health centers. [Note: Classroom is broadly defined to include all electronic formats].

For further information, please refer to the "Frequently asked Questions" section located at the end of this document.

**For general information and pre-admission counseling, contact:**  
 Idaho State University, College of Technology  
 Student Services Office  
 921 S 8<sup>th</sup> Ave, STOP 8380  
 Pocatello, ID 83209-8380  
 (208) 282-2622  
 e-mail: [ctech@isu.edu](mailto:ctech@isu.edu)  
[www.isu.edu/ctech/](http://www.isu.edu/ctech/)

#### **TUITION AND FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION**

This program starts each August.

Tuition for this program is paid every August, January, and May  
 The following fees are for the **2009/2010** school year:

<b>TUITION PER SEMESTER</b>	<b>\$2,484.00</b>
<b>TUITION PER SEMESTER/NON-RESIDENT</b>	<b>\$7,385.00</b>
<b>STUDENT INSURANCE PREMIUM PER SEMESTER (REQUIRED)</b>	<b>\$ 647.00*</b>
<b>PART-TIME REGISTRATION FEES</b>	<b>\$253.00 PER CREDIT</b>

\*Any student with existing health insurance coverage may be exempt from participation in the Student Insurance Plan by completing and filing a Health Insurance Waiver each academic year. This waiver can be found through the college website at <http://www.isu.edu/stuhlth/insurance/pp.html> .

#### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE REGISTERED NURSE PROGRAM**

The following criteria must be complete or nearly complete prior to application for admission into the Associate Degree Registered Nurse program:

**A.** All students must first be admitted to the university. For information on university admissions, contact the College of Technology Student Services office at (208) 282-2622.

- B.** Completion of the following prerequisite courses, or equivalents, with a grade of “C” or better. A cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 is required: ENGL 101, 102; PSYC 101; NTD 239 or 340 (preferred); BIOL 221/221L, BIOL 301/301L, BIOL 302/302L; MATH (any goal 3, MATH 153 preferred); COMM 101
- C.** A cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 is required. This includes all post secondary course work.
- D.** Active unrestricted licensure to practice as an LPN in the state of Idaho.
- E.** Current CPR certification (Healthcare provider) from the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.
- F.** Current immunization and good health status (per program policy), upon conditional acceptance into the program.
- G.** Background check and drug screening per department policy, upon acceptance into the program.
- H.** IV Therapy certification of completion.

Upon completion, or near completion of the above criteria, submit an application to the College of Technology Student Services Office (208) 282-2622. Once application is submitted and complete, and eligibility verified, the candidate will take the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) from Assessment Technologies Institute. This TEAS score is combined with cumulative GPA earned (includes all post secondary coursework), years of work experience as a LPN, employer/instructor reference, and documented adherence to nursing standards (reference) to rank-order applicants for each admission class.

Former College of Technology students who have been out of school one semester or more must complete the necessary forms in the Student Services office before returning to the program.  
 Re-entering students must meet requirements as outlined in the catalog effective at the date of their re-enrollment.  
 Students may choose any subsequent catalog to meet graduation requirements as long as they have continuous enrollment.

**Idaho State University subscribes to the principles and laws of the State of Idaho and the federal government, including applicable executive orders pertaining to civil rights. All rights, privileges, and activities of the University are made available without regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, disability, national origin or veteran status. The University is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer. Evidence of practices that are not consistent with such a policy should be reported to:**

**Leonard E. “Buddy” Frazier, Affirmative Action Director  
 Museum Building, Room 422 Box 8315  
 E-mail frazleon@isu.edu  
 (208) 282-3964**

**Idaho State University is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented disabilities. If you have a diagnosed disability or if you believe that you have a disability that might require reasonable accommodations, please contact:**

**Dennis J. Toney, ADA Disabilities and Resource Center Director  
 Graveley Hall, Room 123 Box 8121  
 E-mail tonedenn@isu.edu  
 (208) 282-3599**

**NOTE: Licensure, certification, and/or employment applications related to some degree programs require students to disclose any history of criminal prosecution which may include the student’s driving record. Students who have a criminal history are strongly encouraged to contact the licensing agency or meet with the coordinator of the program they are interested in, prior to beginning classes, to discuss potential impediments to licensure, certification, or employment.**

## COURSE INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

#### PROGRAM TITLE: **ASSOCIATE DEGREE REGISTERED NURSE PROGRAM (ADRN)**

##### CURRICULUM

4 ½ semester program (includes prerequisite coursework)

One Associate of Science degree is available to the student. **(For answers to frequently asked questions please refer to the "Frequently asked Questions" section located at the end of this document).**

*Upon completion of the Associate of Science Degree in Nursing, articulation into baccalaureate and master's nursing programs is available.*

*You may appeal placement decisions made by Student Services through a petition process. Please call (208) 282-2622 for more information.*

**ASSOCIATE DEGREE REGISTERED NURSE PROGRAM** 4 ½ semesters. A minimum of 68\* credits are required for an Associate of Science Degree - Nursing. (\*Total number of credits includes program prerequisite and nursing-specific courses.)

Prerequisites include the following: BIOL 221/221L, 301/301L, 302/302L; ENGL 101, 102; NTD 239 OR 340 (340 preferred); PSYC 101, COMM 101, MATH (any goal 3, MATH 153 preferred). All non-nursing courses must be completed PRIOR to the final semester of the program.

Co-requisites: Must be completed prior to last semester (summer) of ADRN coursework. Two of Goals 6, 7, and 8 (6 cr) AND One of Goals 9, 10A or 10B 3 cr (minimum), Goal 11 (3 cr).

Program-Specific Courses: ADRN 210, ADRN 211, ADRN 212, ADRN 220,220L, ADRN 230, ADRN 231, ADRN 232, ADRN 233, ADRN 245.

MINIMUM TOTAL FOR DEGREE: 68 cr

#### NOTE

**Because the summer term is a shortened semester, all non-nursing courses must be completed prior to the start of the final semester.**

**Students will not be allowed to progress in the nursing program if all required prerequisite and nursing courses are not completed with a grade of "C" (75%) or better.**

#### ADRN Courses

**ADRN 210 Nursing Transition 2 credits.** Professional skills needed in the transition of roles from LPN to RN are addressed. The three roles of the professional nurse and evidence-based decision-making are stressed. PREREQ: Admission to program. F

**ADRN 211 Mental Health Nursing 3 credits.** Nursing assessment and care of the patient and family experiencing psycho-social and mental health disorders within acute, chronic, and community settings. PREREQ: Admission to program. F

**ADRN 212 Clinical Foundations of Nursing III 2 credit.** Clinical experiences for nursing care within a variety of acute and community-based settings guide the development of the problem solving process in nursing. The focus of this course is on skilled nursing and mental health nursing care, including therapeutic use of self. COREQ: ADRN 210, ADRN 211 and ADRN 220. F

**ADRN 220 Health Assessment 2 credits.** Health assessment of all ages, interpretation of data, extended development of critical thinking skills; developing patient care based on clinical findings. PREREQ: Admission to program. COREQ: ADRN 220L F

**ADRN 220L Health Assessment Lab 1 credit.** Practical experience in health assessment of all ages; interpretation of clinical data in simulated situations; planning and prioritizing care based on clinical findings. COREQ: ADRN 220. F

**ADRN 230 Medical/Surgical Nursing III 3 credits.** Professional nursing care of individuals and groups with acute and chronic health events requiring nursing assessment and intervention within institutional and community care facilities. PREREQ: ADRN 212. COREQ: ADRN 231 and ADRN 232. S

**ADRN 231 Clinical Foundations of Nursing IV 4 credits.** Clinical experiences for nursing care within a variety of acute and community-based settings guide the development of knowledge and skills. PREREQ: ADRN 212. COREQ: ADRN 230. S

**ADRN 232 Family Nursing 3 credits.** Study of conditions or complications of women's health, pregnancy, peri-partum, plus newborn, child, and family assessment; nursing care and prioritization of interventions for the child-bearing, child-rearing family are addressed. COREQ: ADRN 231. S

**ADRN 233 Medical and Surgical Nursing IV 3 credits.** The three roles of the nurse are established within the framework of legal and ethical professional nursing practice. Nursing assessments and interventions in the high-acuity patient are addressed. PREREQ: ADRN 230. COREQ: ADRN 245. Su

**ADRN 245 Clinical Foundations of Nursing V 3 credits.** Clinical practicum for the professional nursing care of high-acuity patients and their families. Nursing leadership is implemented along with critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making for persons and groups of persons experiencing health events. PREREQ: ADRN 231. COREQ: ADRN 233. Su

**ADRN 298 Independent Study 1-5 credits.** Designed to address specific learning needs of individuals, this course enables students to enhance nursing knowledge and skills. PREREQ: Permission of instructor and program director. D

**FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ON GENERAL EDUCATION CLASSES, PLEASE REFER TO THE ISU UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG AND CLASS SCHEDULE.**

## IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

### ***PROGRAM TITLE: ASSOCIATE DEGREE REGISTERED NURSE PROGRAM***

#### **Sample course sequence:**

Options exist for transfer credit or testing. Please consult with student services at **208-282-2622**.

#### Semester 1 (Fall)

BIOL 221/221L	Introductory Microbiology/Lab	4 cr
ENGL 101	English Composition	3 cr
PSYC 101	Introduction to General Psychology	3 cr
BIOL 301/301L	Anatomy and Physiology & Lab	4 cr
COMM 101	Principles of Speech	3 cr
Total for Fall Semester:		17 cr

#### Semester 2 (Spring)

BIOL 302/302L	Anatomy & Physiology & Lab	4 cr
ENGL 102	Critical Reading and Writing	3 cr
NTD 239	Nutrition	3 cr
OR		
NTD 340	Nutrition For health Professionals (preferred)	3 cr
One of Goal 3	(MATH 153 preferred)	3 cr
Goal 9, 10A, or 10B*	(minimum)	3 cr
*(if 10B is completed, 8 cr will be required)		
Total for Spring Semester:		16 cr

#### ***After acceptance into program:***

#### Semester 3 (Fall)

ADRN 210	Nursing Transition	2 cr
ADRN 211	Mental Health Nursing	3 cr
ADRN 212	Clinical Foundations of Nursing III	2 cr
ADRN 220	Health Assessment	2 cr
ADRN 220L	Health Assessment Lab	1 cr
	One of goal 11	3 cr
Total for Fall Semester:		13 cr

#### Semester 4 (Spring)

ADRN 230	Medical and Surgical Nursing III	3 cr
ADRN 231	Clinical Foundations of Nursing IV	4 cr
ADRN 232	Family Nursing	3 cr
	Two of goals 6, 7, 8	6 cr
Total for Spring Semester:		16 cr

#### Summer

ADRN 233	Medical Surgical Nursing IV	3 cr
ADRN 245	Clinical Foundations of Nursing V	3 cr
Total for Summer Semester:		6 cr

## IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

### **PROGRAM TITLE: ASSOCIATE DEGREE REGISTERED NURSE BOOK AND TOOL LIST**

Textbooks may be purchased at the University Bookstore located at the Pond Student Union Building #14. Textbooks may also be purchased or reserved on-line through [www.efollett.com](http://www.efollett.com) or the bookstore's website at [www.isu.edu/bookstor](http://www.isu.edu/bookstor). Payments may be made with cash, check, VISA, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover. A shipping charge will be added for mail orders. See the bookstore's website for more information on purchasing or reserving books or for refund policy information. **Save Your Receipts!**

**Starting fall of 2009, all ADRN students are required to have the following laptop computer:**

#### Laptop Configuration Guidelines

	Recommended Configuration
<b>Processor</b>	Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processor T5500 (1.66GHz)
<b>Memory</b>	2GB
<b>Hard Drive</b>	80GB
<b>Optical Drive</b>	CD-RW / DVD
<b>Wireless</b>	802.11b/g
<b>Ethernet</b>	1Gb
<b>Battery life</b>	3-4 hours
<b>Warranty</b>	3 year
<b>Operating System</b>	Windows Vista Home Premium
<b>Office Suite</b>	MS Office Professional 2007

**Approximate total book and tool costs for this program's options are listed below. Additional book costs will vary depending on the courses taken to fulfill general education requirements for the Associate of Science degree.**

**NOTE: PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANYTIME WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION**

#### I. BOOKS -

DESCRIPTION	APPROXIMATE PRICE
Textbooks for the entire program are bundled and need to be purchased by the first day of the first nursing semester	<b>1100.00</b>

#### II. SUPPLIES and FEES

Uniforms (at least two)	100.00
White lab coat (one)	40.00
Patches (recommend 3)	18.00
Bandage scissors	6.00

Forceps	6.00
Stethoscope	45.00
Watch with sweep second hand	20.00
Computer with Internet access (See FAQ section for additional information re: computer requirements and computer-related skills Operating System – Windows XP (service pack 2) RAM – @ least 1 GB (if using Vista, then need 2 GB RAM) Hard Drive: 40-160 GB Internet connection speed: no slower than 1.5 mbs, cannot use dialup. Sound Card and Microphone adaptable Video capability (CD/DVD drive) MS Office (Powerpoint, Word, etc.)	1000.00
Professional Fee; ATI Virtual NCLEX Success	150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1385.00</b>
<b>TOTAL BOOKS, SUPPLIES, AND FEES</b>	<b>\$2585.00</b>

TUIITION AND FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUR PRIOR NOTIFICATION.  
ANTICIPATE ADDITIONAL EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROGRAM:  
**TEXTBOOKS ASSOCIATED WITH ACADEMIC COURSES,**  
TRANSPORTATION, PARKING, CHILD CARE, HOUSING.

## Frequently Asked Questions Associate Degree Registered Nurse Program

***Tell me something about the nursing profession. What is the difference between a licensed practical nurse (LPN), and a registered nurse (RN)?***

Johnson & Johnson Corporation has established an outstanding web site that will provide you with a wealth of information. You will discover the who, what, why, and how of a nursing career by clicking on the following link: <http://www.discovernursing.com/glossary.aspx>

***What other nursing programs are available at Idaho State University?***

The Idaho State University College of Technology has the Certified Nurse Assistant (Workforce Training), the Practical Nursing Program, and the Associate Degree Registered Nurse Program. The Idaho State University College of Health Professions has the Baccalaureate and Master's Degree in Nursing options.

***I have taken courses at other colleges/universities. How will I learn if these courses meet the Idaho State University and ADRN program requirements?***

You must first be an accepted student at Idaho State University. You may learn a great deal about the university as well as have access to an on-line application by going to the ISU home page and clicking on "Prospective Students." Once you are admitted to the university, you should contact the College of Technology Student Services office at 208-282-2622 to proceed with the transcript evaluation processes.

***When do you admit students into the program?***

ADRN students are admitted once per year. Applications are made available late each fall. Admitted students begin course work fall term and graduate at the end of summer term, the following year.

***How many students are in each class?***

Each admission class will have approximately 30 seats.

***What type of CPR certification is needed for admission?***

You must have and maintain current BCLS CPR certification (Healthcare Provider) from the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.

***What if I am an LPN but have not earned IV Therapy certification?***

If you have not received formal IV instruction during or after your practical nurse course work, you will need to be IV certified prior to the beginning of nursing courses. Local and regional nursing programs may offer these classes. Prior to enrollment, please check that the IV Therapy course will meet Idaho Board of Nursing requirements and standards. The ISU College of Technology Workforce Training has, in the past, offered the IV Certification course for LPNs. Please contact them and ask for additional information about possible future offerings of this course. The Workforce Training phone number is: 208-282-3372.

***Will I be required to complete all of the pre-requisite courses prior to applying for admission?***

Prerequisite courses must be complete or in progress with an **absolute completion deadline** on or prior to August 6th of the admission year. Options exist for transfer credit or testing. Please consult

with Student Services at 208-282-2622. All prerequisite courses must be complete with a “C” or better. All non-nursing courses must be completed **PRIOR** to the final term (summer) of the program. You are **STRONGLY advised** to finish all non-nursing graduation requirements prior to starting ADRN program courses.

***If I am not yet licensed as an LPN (but will be at the start of my nursing classes), may I still submit my application?***

Yes; however, you must have an active, unrestricted license to practice as an LPN in the state of Idaho prior to the first day of classes. Document your pending license status on the application form (licensure section). As with any unfinished prerequisite, admission will be conditional until a copy of your license is received. Because of the self-directed independent nature of this program, however, you are **strongly advised** to obtain full-time LPN work experience prior to enrollment.

***How do you make admission decisions?***

Admission to the (ADRN) Program is competitive and meeting the admission criteria does not assure acceptance into the program. Once applications are evaluated, all qualified candidates will take the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) from Assessment Technologies Institute. This TEAS score is combined with GPA earned, years of LPN experience, employer/instructor reference, and documented adherence to nursing standards to rank the order of applicants for each admission class. ADRN candidates will be notified by mail regarding conditional acceptance. Students not accepted to the program must reapply. Acceptance will be conditional until all required documents are submitted to the program, including required documentation for immunizations, cleared drug screen, background check, and health clearance.

***What is the required GPA for admission?***

All prerequisite courses must be complete with a “C” or better. A cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 is also required. However, the required GPA for program admission is dependant on the applicant pool and thus, differs each year. All post-secondary course work contributes to the GPA considered for program admission.

***Is there an admission waiting list?***

No, we do not have a waiting list. We may, however, establish an alternate list of admission candidates.

***How should I prepare for the pre-entrance (Test of Essential Academic Skills – TEAS) examination?***

You may wish to formally prepare for the TEAS examination. Information is available by accessing the ATI web home page at <http://www.atitesting.com/> and clicking the TEAS information link. This entrance examination is an examination of essential academic skills such as reading, math, science, and English.

***How do you calculate “years of experience?”***

On your admission application, you will be asked for information specific to “years experience as an LPN.” These are full-time years. Thus, if you have maintained half-time employment as an LPN for five years you will document 2.5 years of experience. Time spent in practical nursing clinical courses is NOT LPN (licensed) experience.

***What is the “Required Documents” check list?***

Once you have been conditionally accepted into the ADRN program, a “required documents” check list will be sent to you. Paste this check list to the front of a large 9X12 envelope. As you compile and complete the required documents, place them into this envelope, mark off and date the corresponding notation on the “required documents” check list. All required documents will be turned in at once during the first information session. At that time, the completed “Required documents” check list and copies of all the required documents, as contained in the 9X12 envelope, will be submitted to program staff.

***What health records must I have prior to the start of nursing classes?***

Though you may **NOT** submit immunization records until you are conditionally admitted, here is a statement regarding required immunizations. Be sure all health items are completed prior to the first information session.

- a. if you were born after 1957, you must have documentation for two MMRs **OR** positive titer for Rubella and Rubeola
- b. you must have evidence of a positive Varicella titer **OR** the Varicella vaccine
- c. you must have evidence of Hepatitis B series of three shots **PLUS** a positive titer for Hepatitis B (booster shots are needed until titers are positive or until six boosters have been received)
- d. you must have evidence of Tetanus immunization that is less than nine years old (prefer within five years but nine years is required for the program); if greater than nine years, you will need a tetanus booster. Many receive the diphtheria along with the tetanus (called DT) but diphtheria is not required
- e. current TB (i.e. negative ppd within the last 11 months) assessment

You will also need health clearance from your Health Care Provider.

***What computer equipment do I need in order to be successful in this distance-based program?***

Computer with dedicated Internet access. A lap top PC is required during each intensive session. Processor: Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processor T5500 (1.66 GHz); Memory: 2GB; Hard Drive: 80 GB; Optical Drive: CD-RW/DVD; Wireless: 802.11b/g; Ethernet: 1GB; Battery life: 3-4 hours; Warranty: 3 year; Operating System: Windows XP; Office Suite: MS Office Professional 2007; virus protection.

Sound card

Microphone adaptable (during on-line synchronous--real time-- teaching/learning sessions, you will need to speak as well as listen to discussions)

ISU Computer account

***What computer and on-line skills do I need in order to do well within this distance learning environment?***

Keyboarding and touch typing, basic Internet technologies such as an understanding of browsers, firewalls, cookies, etc.; downloading and saving files and images; searching and retrieving research information; Email: sending, receiving, adding attachments, downloading attachments; using ISU resources (such as health library sites); Moodle Learning Management processes (logging in, navigating through Moodle, threaded discussions (forums, Wikis, etc.), Moodle email systems, on-line exams, finding and using Moodle and course resources, etc.); word-processing (MS Word) skills: creating documents, managing files, saving, retrieving, adding attachments, saving in RTF, etc.; Power-point (ppt) presentation skills. You will also need MS Office word processing software and skills.

ISU's Instructional Technology Resource Center (ITRC) has posted a Moodle self-help tutorial. Easy access to this on-line tutorial is available by clicking the ITRC handout page at <http://www.isu.edu/itrc/handouts.shtml>, scrolling about 1/2 way down, and finding, then clicking the links identified as "Moodle for Students." The most important of those links is the "Student Guide to Moodle ISU" which contains essential student tutorials for Moodle. A high comfort level of Moodle applications is essential for program and course success.

ISU has implemented a new "Google Apps" set of outstanding on-line support aids. The ADRN Program employs these Google Apps within program processes. To access essential basic information regarding these powerful applications, go to <http://google.isu.edu/> and carefully review the "learn more about Apps" section.

***What will my schedule be like once nursing courses begin? Will I be able to stay employed?***

This is a rigorous, challenging program of study. Look carefully at your employment schedule as well as other responsibilities you have. During the three semesters of the program, you will need to commit to full time study as well as clinical and theory course requirements. Because the summer term is a shortened semester, all non-nursing courses must be completed prior to the start of the final term (summer). Because of the program's rigor, you are strongly advised to complete all co-requisite coursework prior to the start of nursing courses and cut back on work and other responsibilities as much as possible.

***How much time should I expect to spend on my ADRN program courses?***

Required minimum hours of actual clinical practice per credit for clinical courses in the ADRN program is about 45-50 hours per credit. Therefore, a three credit clinical course will require a minimum of 150 hours of supervised clinical practice (can include additional hours related to the accomplishment of clinical course objectives). Additionally, the ADRN 298 Independent Study course can be taken for one to five credits. Each credit of ADRN 298 will require a minimum of 45 hours of student effort.

Generally, students taking courses in the ADRN program should expect to spend "in class" time per week based on the credit allocation. For example, a three credit didactic course would include three "in-class" hours per week. In-class time includes teaching/learning sessions, discussions, on-line connections, etc.). In addition to time in class, students should expect to spend the standard two to four hours per week in study and preparation, for each in-class hour. Thus, a three credit course would include three in-class hours per week plus two to four hours of preparation per credit, per week, totaling an average requirement of 9-15 hours per week for that course (Becker, 2005; BSU, 2009; GMU, 2008; UW, 2004).

***How will I know if a distance-based nursing education program is right for me?***

Successful students completing distance based education are highly motivated, self-directed, well organized, and very adaptable learners. Whether studying, finishing an assignment, completing online forums with classmates, researching a project, or planning and attending clinical experiences, successful distance-based nursing program students make their education a priority. Furthermore, these students shed the notion of a traditional teacher-centered classroom experience and consider their distance-based education as an opportunity for new and exciting learner-centered experiences that are personally and professionally rewarding.

Do you love to learn, for learning sake, without the usual external affirmations of a teacher-centered education? Are you naturally curious and does that curiosity include new ways of thinking and approaching the multiple roles of the professional nurse? Can you independently stick to numerous deadlines? Can you work alone as well as in synchronous and asynchronous on-line groups? Are you able to carve out sufficient time each and every day, to work on your courses? If yes, then consider distance-based education as a career-enhancing option.

***What is an “intensive?”***

Conditionally accepted students in the ADRN will come to campus and complete two all-day sessions (usually scheduled once in June and once in July), prior to the start of courses in the fall term. Once courses begin, ADRN students must attend on-campus (Pocatello) all day sessions called “intensives.” These mandatory intensives take place approximately monthly and are designed to help students learn important course concepts and program information, meet and connect with peers and faculty, demonstrate nursing skills and insights, and take nationally normed examinations.

***What is the approval and accreditation status of the program?***

The ISU ADRN program is fully approved by the Idaho State Board of Nursing. This nursing education program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). NLNAC may be contacted through their web site at <http://www.nlnac.org/home.htm> or in writing at NLNAC, 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 500; Atlanta, GA 30326; P. 404.975.5000 F. 404.975.5020. The Commission moved to Atlanta, GA in July 2009.

Idaho State University is accredited through the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

***Will I be required to take an exit exam prior to graduation?***

Yes. As a condition of progression and completion of the ADRN program, nursing competency will be assessed each term. Students will be required to take nationally normed examinations throughout the curriculum and make a satisfactory score on such examinations. In the last term of the curriculum, students will be required to take a nationally normed comprehensive exam and make a satisfactory score prior to graduation.

***Tell me about the required background checks and drug screens.***

The ADRN program complies with the requirements of the clinical sites in which students receive clinical experience. These clinical sites require cleared background checks and drug screenings. Therefore, all ADRN students are required to complete these assessments and any costs incurred will be the responsibility of the student.

***What should I do if there is something in my past that may affect my ability to be licensed?***

Idaho Board of Nursing may deny, suspend, or revoke a license if an applicant has a criminal history or licensee is involved in a felony or other crime or problem. Under these or any other questionable circumstances, ADRN students/applicants are urged to immediately consult with the Idaho State Board of Nursing for more information. Successful completion of the ADRN program does not guarantee NCLEX-RN passing nor nursing licensure.

***What grades must I have for my nursing courses?***

A grade of 75% or better, is required for the passing of all nursing courses.

***Can you tell me something about my peers? Do you think I will fit in?***

Yes, you will most certainly “fit in!” ADRN students are extremely diverse. Years of LPN experience range from just a few months to 30+ and ages range from early 20s to 60. Clinical and geographic backgrounds are equally diverse. LPNs from multiple specialties as well as rural, urban, and frontier healthcare areas learn and grow through group-work, discussions, and networking.

## References

- Becker, M. L. (2005, May 2). Student study hours per credit hour. University of New Hampshire Faculty Senate. Retrieved December 6, 2008 from [www.unh.edu/fac-senate/pub/studyhours](http://www.unh.edu/fac-senate/pub/studyhours)
- Boise State University (BSU). (2009, August 13). Is distance education right for me? Retrieved October 11, 2009 at [www.boisestate.edu/distance/students/distancefit.shtml](http://www.boisestate.edu/distance/students/distancefit.shtml)
- George Mason University (GMU). (2008, October 9). Time management tips: Study hour formula. Author. Retrieved December 6, 2008 from [www.academictips.org/acad/timemanagement.html](http://www.academictips.org/acad/timemanagement.html)
- The University of Winnipeg (UW). (2004, October 1). You first registration tutorial 2008: How many courses should I take? Author. Retrieved December 6, 2008 from [www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/you-first-of-courses](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/you-first-of-courses)

*Developed 2005; revised 12-08; 5-09,10-09*