



## **BEACON Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***When can I apply to the BEACON Program?***

Applications for the Spring BEACON class are due on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Applications received after that date are considered on a space available basis.

### ***How do I apply?***

The application is completed in two steps:

1. Apply to Wright State University (if you are not already a WSU student) at Undergraduate Admissions (E148 Student Union) or online (<http://www.wright.edu/prospective/>). You will need to submit all transcripts, which may be time consuming. It is advisable to apply to WSU as soon as possible, well BEFORE the application deadline for BEACON to make sure this initial, mandatory step is completed. Be sure to indicate that you are a BEACON applicant on the paperwork.
2. Apply to BEACON. Forms for this application are attached. This application is submitted directly to the College of Nursing and Health.

### ***How will I know what credits will apply to the prerequisites, and what will I need to take in order to be admitted into BEACON?***

Each transcript is reviewed on an individual basis. If you make an appointment with College of Nursing and Health advising staff, they will inform you of the applicability of credits and suggest how you can better meet the prerequisites.

### ***What is the cost of the program?***

The tuition is expected to be approximately \$12,000 for the 15 month program with increases expected based on tuition changes each year. There are extra expenses for books, lab fees, uniforms, equipment, health assessment, health insurance and liability insurance.

### ***Approximately how many credits will I be taking each quarter?***

18 credit hours

### ***Will I be able to receive financial aid?***

There are many excellent financial aid opportunities for nursing students. Please see the WSU-CONH Scholarship Opportunities for Nursing Students handout for suggestions. You may also contact the Financial Aid Office at WSU for assistance (<http://www.wright.edu/admissions/finaid/index.html>). Area health care partners have offered loan programs to qualifying BEACON students in the past with a loan forgiveness program based on employment after graduation. Other employers offer comparable plans upon hire. You will be informed of any such opportunities after admission.

***Will acceptance into the program be a selective process?***

Yes, there will be a selective, competitive process based on your GPA in past university experiences, prerequisite course work GPA, your essay, professional references, the interview, and your ability to perform functions required in the practice of nursing.

***What are the prerequisites for the program?***

The prerequisites for the program are as follows:

A non-nursing Bachelor's Degree with at least a 3.0 or above GPA  
Courses in

- Anatomy & Physiology
- Biology (if not taken in high school)
- Chemistry - Organic
- English Composition
- Microbiology
- Nutrition
- Pharmacology
- Psychology - Abnormal
- Psychology - Growth & Development
- Sociology - Introductory
- Statistics

State Tested Nursing Assistant Coursework (or LPN or Paramedic certification). This course is available throughout the state including Sinclair Community College, Community Hospital in Springfield, Miami Valley Career Technology Center, Miami Valley Medical School, and many other places. The course will be at least 73 hours of classroom and clinical skills experience. You must complete the coursework only (not exam leading to certification). Classes are often given in the evening or other convenient times. If you already have STNA, LPN, or Paramedic certification/licensure, submit a copy of your license in with your application.

***What if I have most of the prerequisites but have not completed all of the required course work?***

You are encouraged to meet with an advisor to review your transcripts in advance of submitting your application so that you can receive advice about what courses are needed. You must have completed all of the requirements before you can enroll in the program. Applicants are strongly urged to complete all of the requirements in advance of applying for the program in order to be competitive in the application process.

***Why do I need to have completed an STNA course?***

This is an intensive program and you begin your clinical experiences during the first week of the first quarter. We believe that some experience in the health care field will help you determine if you like caring for others during times of health care need and it will also provide you with some basic skills so that you are ready to begin your clinical experiences.

***Will I be able to maintain a job while taking classes for the program?***

The short answer is: NO. It is HIGHLY recommended that students are not employed during the program. This is because our program is fast paced and requires a full-time commitment.

***What kind of students are you looking for?***

This program is an intensive and accelerated entry into nursing program. It requires a strong background in the sciences and a commitment serving others. One of our goals is to increase diversity in the nursing profession. If you are a graduate of a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) or represent a disadvantaged minority group, you are especially encouraged to apply.

***When does the program start?***

The BEACON curriculum begins spring quarter.

***When do I graduate?***

BEACON students will graduate in spring of the year following admission, after 15 months.

***When will I be notified of my acceptance in the program?***

You will be notified by the end of February if you are accepted during the first consideration for the BEACON program. If you have pre-requisites that have not yet been completed, you may be notified that your application will be re-considered when those requirements are complete. We will try to notify you so that you can plan to meet any remaining requirements in a timely manner.

***Will I be able to take my classes online?***

The majority of the classes will be taught on campus in a classroom setting, and in the hospital for clinicals. However, a number of courses include online activities.

***What computer capability do I need in order to take online classes?***

In order to determine if your browser is capable of supporting online classes, go to <http://wisdom.wright.edu> and click on the "right browser" or "browser recommendations" link depending on which appears with your browser. This will help you get upgrades and determine your computer's capability.

***How many graduate credits will I earn while in the BEACON program?***

You will earn 18 graduate credit hours towards the Master's of Science in Nursing degree while enrolled in the BEACON program.

***How do I make an appointment to meet with someone about the BEACON program?***

You can call the College of Nursing and Health at 937-775-3132 and request an appointment with one of our student advisors.