



Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing

A POST-BACCALAUREATE DEGREE
WESTMONT DOWNTOWN

Pending WSCUC approval prior to Commission ratification and BRN approval.*



WESTMONT
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

**WASC Senior College and University Commission*

"Our rigorous academic environment educates the whole person, developing competent, compassionate graduates well-suited to work in cross-cultural settings."

- Carol Velas, founding director

As the founding director of the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Westmont College. I'm delighted to introduce you to this new groundbreaking program for Westmont. I've been a registered nurse for 35 years and I feel called to a lifetime of compassionate caring through 21st century nursing.



My education includes an Associate of Science in nursing, a Bachelor of Science in nursing, a Master of Science in nursing (nursing education role), and a doctorate in educational leadership and policy.

My extensive nursing experience includes care in oncology, medical/surgical, labor and delivery, post-partum, newborn nursery, and pediatrics nursing. As an administrator, I've directed a women's unit, managed a cancer program, developed staff, and served as both an assistant nursing program director and nursing program director. I've taught nursing at the associate, baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels in public and private institutions. I also own and operate a consulting business in nursing education.

Students entering the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program will learn from experienced, competent registered nursing professors chosen for their dedication to the ministry of health and wellness through the theory of compassionate care.

In nursing theory courses, students will explore the compassionate care given to patients from diverse backgrounds with a multitude of conditions and disorders. Progressive clinical practicums include encounters with patients of all ages across a spectrum of illnesses. Experienced faculty serve as role models and supervise interactions between students and patients in the beginning clinical courses with collaborative instruction occurring during the intermediate and more advanced clinical experiences. Students graduate as entry-level registered nurse generalists.

I'm really looking forward to sharing more information with you. Please contact me and let's connect.

Carol Velas
Founding Director
cvelas@westmont.edu

Introduction

Westmont's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing was created to address the critical shortage of skilled nurses directly in Santa Barbara and throughout the region. Our rigorous academic environment educates the whole person, developing competent, compassionate graduates well-suited to work in cross-cultural settings. Cottage Health, a system of hospitals and clinics serving the Central Coast, will provide state-of-the-art clinical training for our students and serve as an essential partner. Moreover, the connection with Cottage will help place our graduates in well-paid, meaningful positions and serve as a direct pathway to career opportunities.



*Westmont is indeed a community treasure. Westmont looks at community needs and addresses them. **We are very proud to partner with Westmont** in this effort and look forward to Westmont nursing students walking the halls of Cottage for their clinical rotations and to having Westmont RN graduates joining us in our work. Your emphasis on admitting students who reflect the diversity of our community is in line with our work on addressing health care disparities, particularly for vulnerable populations.*

- Ron Werft, President and CEO of Cottage Health

1. A **critical need** exists for more nurses, particularly in California.

California faces the largest projected shortage of nurses in the United States. Westmont's new nursing program will train critically needed personnel to help address the lack of nurses in the state. Healthcare experts predict a significant exit of nurses from the workforce in the next seven to 10 years. Moreover, nurses face increasingly complex professional demands. As healthcare costs rise, patients receive more treatment from skilled nurses and less from doctors.

- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, estimates a shortage of 44,000 California nurses by 2030.
- Some state-based estimates project an even greater shortage.
- With its educational mission, Westmont is perfectly positioned to fill this need and address the significant nursing shortage in Santa Barbara and California.



2. Employers increasingly require nurses with **BSN degrees**.

Traditionally, nurses have provided high-touch care to patients, but today they must integrate high-tech skills as they treat people in a variety of settings. As healthcare becomes more complex, so must professional training. The need for highly trained nurses able to care for a diverse population has never been greater. Inspiring nurses with BSN degrees to pursue leadership positions will help hospitals better serve patients now and in the future.

- Increasingly, nurses function as key partners in interprofessional, team-based care.
- More nurses now work in out-patient care, community-based care, and home care.
- As they leave hospitals to work at less-structured sites, nurses need training to function effectively in these new contexts.
- Nurses need to provide culturally-competent care for California's highly diverse population.

*"Westmont has already proven that it successfully prepares its graduates, with **90 percent of applicants being accepted into medical school**. I am equally confident that our graduates will make tremendous nurses. California and the rest of the world need nurses, and Westmont can provide the well-rounded education and training that nurses need to flourish."*

- Eileen McMahon McQuade, associate dean of the faculty and professor of biology

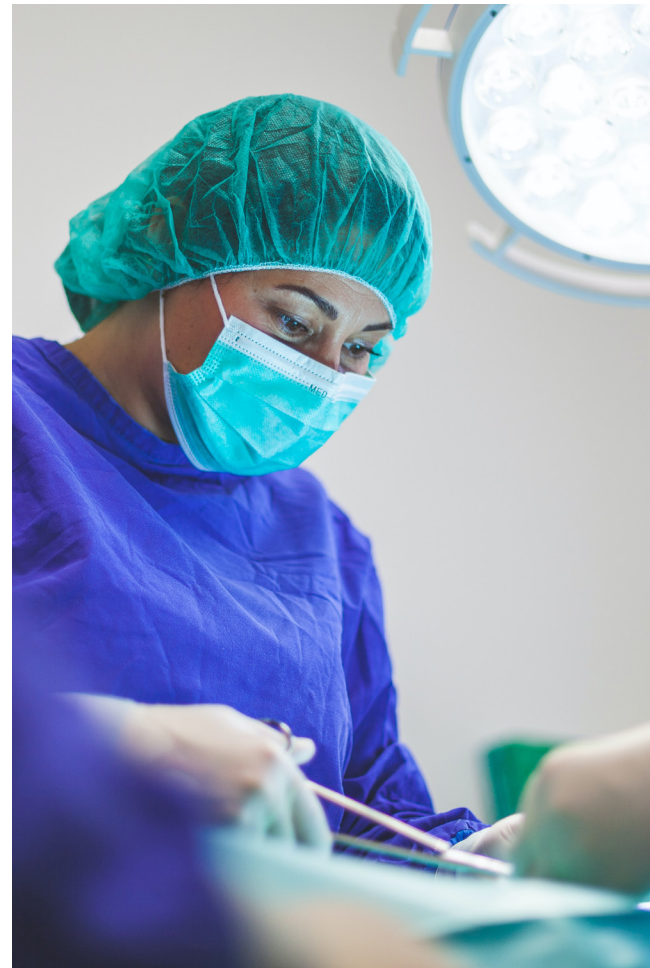
3. Westmont's mission positions it to make a **unique contribution.**

Westmont designs its curriculum to foster both rigorous intellectual development and spiritual and emotional maturity. The Christian liberal arts will graduate highly sought nurses. A learning environment that encourages servant leadership develops compassion and empathy and the following key competencies:

- Patient-centered care and advocacy.
- Strong clinical judgment and decision-making.
- The ability to function in leadership roles and interdisciplinary, team-based settings.
- Encouragement and support for ethical decision-making.
- Rapid adaptation to changes in care.
- Innovation in quality, safety and continuity of care.
- Cross-cultural understanding and sensitivity in assessing patient needs and providing culturally competent care.



Westmont Downtown, site of the nursing program.



"Our vision for the program is strongly rooted in our liberal arts mission. Along with technical training in nursing skills, the curriculum will address significant philosophical, ethical and social issues about public health and compassionate care, equip students with qualitative and quantitative research skills and provide multiple opportunities for cross-cultural engagement and reflection."

- Eileen McMahon McQuade, associate dean of the faculty and professor of biology



4. The partnership with Cottage Health offers an outstanding opportunity to create a premier program.

Westmont and Cottage Health, two of the most respected and important organizations in Santa Barbara, have formally established a strategic partnership to serve and transform the greater Santa Barbara community. This new venture positions Westmont to develop and implement one of the country's premier nursing programs. Cottage Health and the nursing program will offer the following resources:

- Clinical education in a diverse, complex clinical environment.
- A rigorous post-baccalaureate curriculum in an accelerated format strategically aligned with the nursing requirements of Cottage Health.
- Use of multiple state-of-the-art simulation laboratories at Cottage Health.
- Opportunities for BSN graduates to pursue careers within Cottage Health.
- Opportunities for tuition assistance and loan forgiveness.

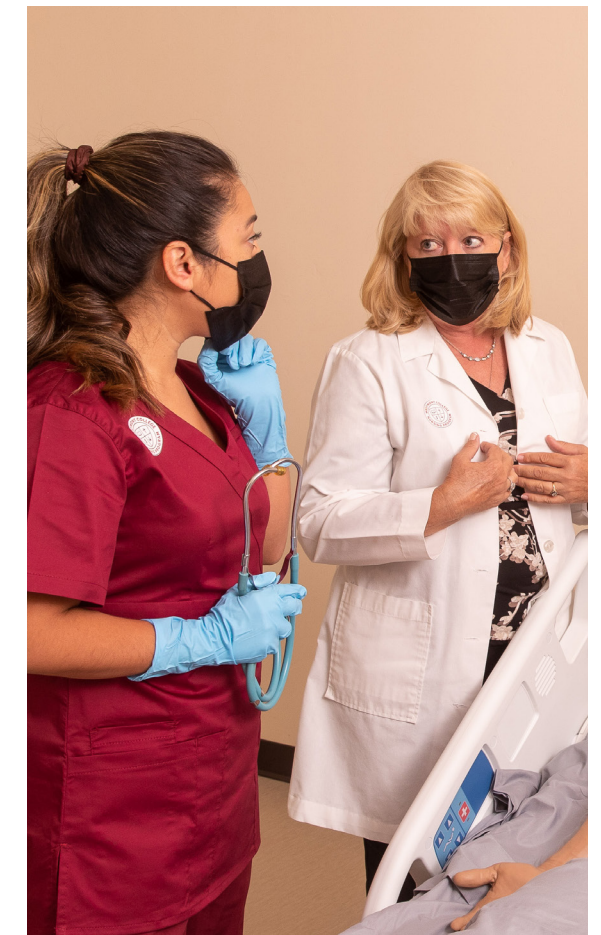
"Nursing is a gift from the heart from those who care deeply for persons during the most vulnerable time of their life. In addition to their amazing clinical skills, nurses have deep compassion for those in need. That's why, for those of us who have been fortunate to have received care from a nurse, we consider them angels, because they are angels in the flesh, and we are all the better because of their desire to truly care for those in need and crisis."

- Steve Fellows, former chief operating officer of Cottage Health and healthcare partnership consultant with Westmont and Cottage Health

5. Westmont's accelerated, post-baccalaureate program increases educational and career pathways and pipelines for nursing in the greater Santa Barbara area.

Westmont has thoughtfully created a new program that will produce graduates who complement the existing nursing programs in the Central Coast area, including the two-year RN program from Santa Barbara City College and the four-year BSN program from CSU Channel Islands. This important strategy will increase the number of qualified nursing graduates to meet the projected shortage of nurses locally. **Westmont's 16-month accelerated post-baccalaureate degree** gives college graduates a pipeline directly into a nursing career with **Cottage Health, Sansum Clinics** and others to serve the needs of the community.

- Integrating nursing with the liberal arts strengthens the program, which develops communication, empathy and sensitivity to the interplay of factors in a patient's background, culture and beliefs.
- The synthesis of technical training, applied learning and cultural awareness will produce nurses with leadership skills.
- Effective and timely transition into nursing from other backgrounds and careers.
- Team-based learning.



6. Westmont Downtown provides an **ideal learning environment and location.**

The renovation of Westmont Downtown at 26 W. Anapamu Street creates a state-of-the-art facility that allows a new generation of students to benefit from a Westmont education. The two-story scenic building is designed to support the intense, team-based learning of an accelerated program. The convenient location, a mile from Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, will provide students with easy access to their clinical rotations throughout the various nursing services at the hospital. Refurbishing the dedicated downtown facilities will create state-of-the-art simulation labs, a team-based learning environment and progressive healthcare facilities to support a vibrant nursing program.

- A brand new custom-designed learning environment that supports the requirements of team-based learning.
- The skills lab in the building and other specialized equipment supports effective learning.
- The Westmont Downtown facility features state-of-the-art technology, including video, wifi, high-speed internet, VoIP, security firewalls and intrusion detection, along with a host of technologies specific to the nursing program.
- Westmont Downtown is fully equipped to serve as the college command center to ensure business continuity during any emergency situation.

7. The accelerated program boasts **scholarships and affordability.**

Westmont is proactively addressing the rising cost of higher education by establishing programs, such as nursing, that strategically advance its mission while keeping tuition costs affordable.

- Westmont is committed to providing educational opportunities for all students. The nursing program will focus recruiting on the demographics of the Central Coast community, seeking to educate and equip nurses who reflect the rich diversity of the communities we aim to serve.

Westmont continues to seek opportunities to serve the Santa Barbara community and meet the needs of its diverse community, and the new nursing program provides a direct and innovative way to respond to its future health and vitality.



A Shot in the Arm Against a Shortage of Nurses

WESTMONT CREATES REGION'S ONLY ACCELERATED NURSING PROGRAM

Originally published in the Westmont Magazine, Spring 2021 Issue

Amid a global pandemic and dire nursing shortage, Westmont's proposed Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) arrives just in time to meet a great need, not only in the Santa Barbara community, but in California. The program, run in partnership with Cottage Health, received unanimous approval for its feasibility study from the California Board of Registered Nursing's (BRN) Education Licensing Committee (ELC) in April and awaits further approvals. The program launches in spring 2022 pending approval from BRN. Students have already expressed interest in joining the first cohort of 24 students.

"We've all become acutely aware of the critical need for nurses," says Westmont President Gayle D. Beebe. "It's not just a skilled practice, it's a courageous one. We seek to graduate highly sought-after nurses who've benefited from the breadth of our liberal arts education and grown in all areas of their lives, developing key qualities such as compassion and empathy."

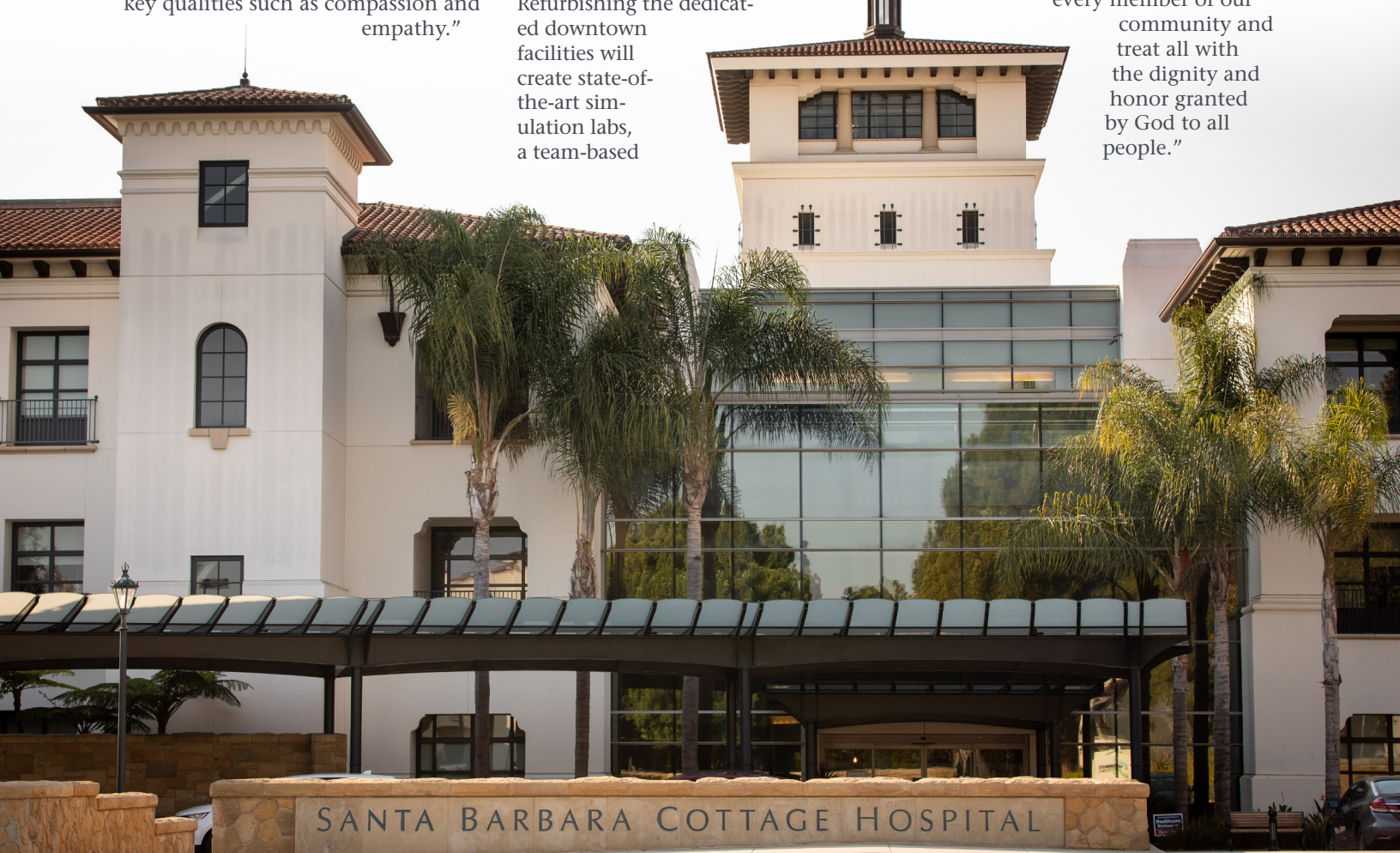
According to a survey of Westmont students interested in nursing and enrolled in majors supporting medical careers, they'd pursue the new degree to provide quality and compassionate healthcare to those in need.

Westmont donors contributed nearly \$10 million to purchase the Westmont Downtown building. Now undergoing renovation, the four-story building will continue to house the Westmont Downtown semester and new initiatives, but will also house the new nursing program. The college is renovating the first two floors of Westmont Downtown, 26 West Anapamu Street, which it purchased in December 2020. Construction will finish in July 2021 so state nursing officials can visit the state-of-the-art facility at a later date. The convenient location, a mile from Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, will provide students with easy access to their clinical rotations throughout the various nursing services at the hospital. Refurbishing the dedicated downtown facilities will create state-of-the-art simulation labs, a team-based

learning environment and progressive healthcare facilities to support a vibrant nursing program.

"Our vision for the program is strongly rooted in our liberal arts mission," says Eileen McMahon McQuade, associate dean of the faculty and professor of biology. "Along with technical training in nursing skills, the curriculum will address significant philosophical, ethical and social issues about public health and compassionate care, equip students with qualitative and quantitative research skills and provide multiple opportunities for cross-cultural engagement and reflection."

The nursing program will be grounded in Christian faith in keeping with Westmont's approach to education. "It will explore themes of service, ethics and empathy and will embody Christ's call to love one's neighbor," McQuade says. "Nurses from our program will be particularly prepared to love and serve every member of our community and treat all with the dignity and honor granted by God to all people."



Ron Werft, president and CEO of Cottage Health, speaks at 2021 Commencement



The ABSN allows someone with a baccalaureate degree to complete the intense education and clinical training to become a registered nurse within 15 months. The college plans to use a cohort-based model with 24 students per cohort, graduating two cohorts each year.

"Nursing is a gift from the heart from those who care deeply for persons during the most vulnerable time of their life," says Steve Fellows, a retired healthcare executive who leads the planning for the partnership between Westmont and Cottage. "In addition to their amazing clinical skills, nurses have deep compassion for those in need. That's why, for those of us who have been fortunate to have received care from a nurse, we consider them angels, because they are angels in the flesh, and we are all the better because of their desire to truly care for those in need and crisis."

The strategic partnership with Cottage Health, a system of hospitals and clinics serving the Central Coast, will provide state-of-the-art clinical training for Westmont students. "We're excited to work with Cottage Health to launch our students in a meaningful career while also meeting a critical need in our community," Beebe says. "This is a direct pipeline and pathway from education to career, and we're so grateful for the opportunity to work with Cottage Hospital to place our students directly into a career path following the completion of their Westmont degree."

"Westmont has already proven that it successfully prepares its graduates,

with 90 percent of applicants being accepted into medical school," McQuade says. "I am equally confident that our graduates will make tremendous nurses. California and the rest of the world need nurses, and Westmont can provide the well-rounded education and training that nurses need to flourish."

"Westmont is indeed a community treasure," says Ron Werft, president and CEO of Cottage Health. "Westmont looks at community needs and addresses them. We are very proud to partner with Westmont in this effort and look forward to Westmont nursing students walking the halls of Cottage next year for their clinical rotations and to having Westmont RN graduates joining us in our work. Your emphasis on admitting students who reflect the diversity of our community is in line with our work on addressing health care disparities, particularly for vulnerable populations."


George Mathen, who graduated from Westmont in 2020 and begins medical school this fall, says his rigorous liberal arts education has equipped him well for a career in medicine because it provided him with a toolset to think effectively and creatively across disciplines. "Intertwine both of these factors — an interdisciplinary education and the formation of oneself — and it's no wonder that we have such a high percentage of well-rounded pre-health students accepted into their desired professional school," he says. "I'm grateful for such an education at Westmont, as it has taught me to think broadly,

to reserve judgement while collaborating alongside those with different perspectives and, most importantly, to envision creatively and meaningfully a life of human flourishing."

The Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, estimates a shortage of 44,000 California nurses by 2030. Westmont's program is designed to directly meet the needs of this growing demand and to respond to the looming healthcare shortage.

"We're committed to building a robust scholarship program that will attract an exceptionally qualified and diverse student population," says Reed Sheard, Westmont vice president for advancement and chief information officer. "Westmont is excited to think about how much better we'll serve the greater Santa Barbara community through the graduates of this new program. This is a vision and project everyone wants to support and advance."

Timely gifts from Dave and Anna Grotenhuis and Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree, the founder of Ridley-Tree Cancer Center at Sansum Clinic with Cottage Health, provided funding for Westmont to make the downtown building a permanent extension of the college in the heart of Santa Barbara.

Westmont continues to seek opportunities to serve the Santa Barbara community and meet its needs, and the new nursing program provides a direct and innovative way to respond to its future health and vitality. 

FAQs for the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program (ABSN)

1. WHAT IS AN ACCELERATED BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING DEGREE PROGRAM?

Students who have already received a baccalaureate degree earn a second baccalaureate degree in nursing through this program. Applicants must complete all prerequisites required for the nursing program as well as a previous Baccalaureate degree.

2. WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITES? IS THERE A TIME LIMIT ON EARNING THEM?

See the list of prerequisites in the chart below. Students must have completed these prerequisites within the past five years.

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	UNITS <i>T-THEORY, L-LAB</i>
BIO/KINS011	Human Anatomy	4 (T=3, L=1)
BIO/KINS012	Human Physiology	4 (T=3, L=1)
BIO110	Microbiology	4 (T=3, L=1)
ENG002	Composition	4
COM110	Interpretive Communication	4
PSY001	General Psychology	4
PSY117	Lifespan Development	4
MA005	Introduction to Statistics	4
RS001	Introduction to Old Testament	4
RS010	Introduction to New Testament	4
RS020	Introduction to Christian Doctrine (must take 2 of the 3 courses)	4
Various	Working Artistically	4
Various	Reading Imaginative Literature	4
Various	Modern Language	4

3. WHEN WILL WESTMONT BEGIN ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS?

Apply now! Demand is high. Cohorts will be admitted to begin each semester in January and August.

4. HOW MANY STUDENTS WILL BE ADMITTED?

Each fall and spring semester, Westmont will accept a total of 24 students, with a ratio of one professor to a group of eight students.

5. WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM COST?

The 16-month program costs about \$65,000.

6. WILL FINANCIAL AID BE AVAILABLE?

Yes, students may apply for financial aid and should complete the FAFSA at studentaid.gov; generous scholarships will be awarded to qualified applicants. Loan forgiveness programs may be available through partnerships with Cottage Health.

7. WILL WESTMONT STUDENT HOUSING BE AVAILABLE?

Nursing students are encouraged to live in Santa Barbara or other nearby locations. Westmont will provide resources to locate off-campus housing.

8. HOW LONG IS THE PROGRAM?

The Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program requires 16 months of study.

9. HOW MANY UNITS WILL I TAKE EACH SEMESTER?

Students take between 16 to 19 units each semester of the ABSN program. They attend classes two days a week and participate in clinical experiences two to three days a week.

10. WILL I BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A BACKGROUND CHECK AND DRUG SCREEN?

Yes, all admitted students will undergo a criminal background check and drug screen among other mandated requirements, such as COVID-19 immunization and a basic life support course.

11. DO YOU OFFER A PART-TIME, ONLINE OR EVENING AND WEEKEND PROGRAM?

At present, Westmont's ABSN program is a full-time, 16-month in-person program.

The first cohort for the ABSN program will begin **January 2022**, pending BRN approval.

To find out more information, please call 805-565-6000 and ask to be placed on the priority connection list. An admissions representative will reach out to you!



WESTMONT
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

One of the country's most beautiful campuses and premier liberal arts colleges

[WESTMONT.EDU/NURSING](https://www.westmont.edu/nursing) | 805-565-6000