

Wound, Ostomy & Continence

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Wound, Ostomy and Continence (WOC) Nurses specialize in the management of wounds including vascular ulcers, chronic wounds, pressure ulcers, neuropathic wounds and fistulas. The management of patients with ostomies related to cancer, trauma, urinary and bowel diseases, as well as patients with fecal and urinary incontinence is also part of this nursing specialty. Nursing specialists in wound, ostomy and continence care play a critical role in the management of complex patients in acute, chronic, outpatient, and home health settings. This is an increasingly valuable specialty, as the population ages, and the acuity of patients is ever more demanding. WOC nurses are recognized as one of the few nursing specialties in wound care to have an advanced education program associated with the certification of this practice. Also this is the only nursing specialty certification in ostomy management.

The University of Virginia School of Nursing offers WOC education within any of its MSN programs, or may be taken as a POST-Master's certification program. WOC nursing incorporates principles and practices that promote, maintain and restore health for persons with wounds, ostomies and continence problems.

PROGRAM FORMAT

- 6 extra credits (if taken as part of a MSN); 9 credits for Post-Master's certificate
 - 12 months part-time (3 credits per term)
 - 160 clinical hours
- Didactic classes are on Thursday afternoons
- Preceptored experience at the University of Virginia Medical Center (160 clinical hours) in summer or spring.
- The WOC Program at the UVA School of Nursing is a nationally-accredited program.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Students who complete the certificate program in Wound, Ostomy & Continence (WOC) program are able to:

- Effectively assess and manage acute and chronic wound, ostomy, and continence health problems in a variety of care settings
- Provide evidence-based WOC care
- Successfully sit for the WOCN certification examination in one or more tracks; ostomy, wounds, foot/nail care, and/or continence

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

MSN students may select to enroll in the WOC program after they have been admitted to another specialty track.

Post-Master's students submit the post-MSN admissions application.

International students must demonstrate ability in English, and must submit TOEFL or IELTS scores. The deadline for international students is February 1.

The application deadline for the Post-Master's WOC program:

Fall Semester

April 1

PROGRAM OF STUDY

WOC Nursing I (3 credits, fall)
WOC Nursing II (3 credits, spring)
WOC Practicum (3 credits, summer)

